

STOURBRIDGE CHRONICLE



Thursday, November 13, 2014

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THE PITMEN

Milestone for a mine of information



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Mosque building gets the go-ahead

CONTROVERSIAL plans for a new mosque in Dudley have been given the go-ahead.

At a heated meeting of Dudley Council's Development Control Committee on Monday planning chiefs voted five to three in favour of the proposals, which will see the development of a 52 ft high curved roof mosque with a 62 ft minaret in Hall Street.

The development is set to include a 120 space two-storey car park, a sports centre, an enterprise and education centre and a community centre.

Police were stationed outside the Council House from 4pm onwards as people gathered to gain access to the public gallery. The doors were locked after the maximum allocation of 50 places was filled, leaving dozens of furious protesters outside.

During the meeting opposition was raised over the size and design of the three-storey building and lack of parking in the area.

The latest designs follow a previously failed bid, which had a taller minaret at 109ft.

The plan could be halted by a High Court hearing next year on whether the land should revert to council ownership.

Museum to boost figures

A SCHOOLS visitor reception at the Black Country Living Museum has been given the green light.

Bosses at the attraction say the new standalone entrance to the Tipton Road site will enable more schools to visit. Currently 60,000 pupils visit the museum each year but it is hoped the new entrance and reception area could double the figure.

Dudley Council's development control committee voted five to two in favour of the proposals with one abstention.

FLATS PLANNED FOR OLD OFFICES

A DILAPIDATED former office block will be given a new lease of life under plans to convert it into flats.

The 40,000 sq ft canal-side building in Moor Street in Brierley Hill has been empty for 20 years.

Proposals to turn the 1960s office block into an art gallery and apartments and then a hotel and restaurant have failed to materialise. But now the site has been put on the market for £395,000 in a bid to attract potential investors to turn it into 25 flats.

Stourbridge-based Walton & Hipkiss is advertising the site.

Spokesman Alan Knight said the currently owner had taken over the office to turn it into 25 flats and had named the proposed housing scheme Stanley Wharf.

But Mr Knight said the owner was now too busy on other developments to go ahead with it.

Developer

He added: "It's a perfect scheme for any developer looking to build in the area. It is a canal-side location and is close to the town centre. We've had good interest so far."

The site, near Albion Works industrial estate, has been a target for vandals since it closed in 1994.

Plans were first submitted to convert it into a canal-side art gallery with apartments and offices. Several years later plans were lodged for a 16-bedroom hotel, bar and restaurant, but those were refused by Dudley Council.

Councillor Rachel Harris said: "We welcome any development in the area, especially down that end of Moor Street."

By Alex Ross

"That area is so dilapidated and so run down that many proposals at all to improve what people have to look at every day is welcome."

"Local people have had planning application after planning application and it has just been disappointment after disappointment. I am just hoping that if someone has put in a proposal that they will follow through with it and actually build, because that whole section along Moor Street needs it."

The advertisement of the building comes as interest picks up in a nearby scheme to turn the Royal Brierley Crystal works into homes, where so far 17 of the 27 proposed homes have been sold. The new homes have been created using old factory buildings.

Members of Brierley Hill Civic Society paid tribute to the developers JG Woodcock Construction Ltd for preserving the history of the site.

Meanwhile, the former Point North offices at The Waterfront, Brierley Hill, which was once the base for insurance company Egg, is being converted into a 181-apartment block. It will include six penthouse apartments and is being renamed The Landmark.

Gritters get ready for the Big Freeze



True grit — Councillor Khurshid Ahmed stands in front of the mound of grit at a warehouse on Lister Road, Dudley

HUGE stores of grit are piled high ready for workers to hit the streets of Dudley when the winter weather turns nasty.

Workers are monitoring the weather and the state of the roads and are on standby to begin their work.

A dedicated 'weather watch' scheme will also be implemented so people can get all the information they need on school closures, any affected services and gritting information, as some predict a harsh winter ahead.

Borough transport boss Councillor Khurshid Ahmed said: "The winter can be a very challenging time for

us. Obviously we cannot control the weather but preparations are in hand ahead of any severe weather."

"We have a total of 4,000 tonnes of salt being delivered in addition to 2,500 tonnes we already have in stock."

Bins

"Our gritting team, based at the council's Lister Road depot, will be on hand to work around the clock to keep 470 kilometres of road clear during any severe weather."

Unlike neighbouring Sandwell borough, which has provided over 500 specialised anti-snow kits to residents,

Dudley Council says it has instead placed a focus on making grit bins readily available.

"We also have a network of 1,072 grit bins across the borough which have been filled and are ready for people to use when the freezing weather comes," said Councillor Ahmed.

The borough has 10 gritters and a team of some 60 staff ready to get to work to keep Dudley on the move. A single gritting run will use anything between 35-75 tonnes of grit.

Teams are ready for action now as forecasters predict a big drop from the milder temperatures of recent weeks.

Accused has denied murder of pensioner

A MAN has denied murdering Halesowen pensioner Cynthia Beamond and a London man.

Leo Barnes, aged 32, who is alleged to have killed Mrs Beamond and Philip Silverstone on consecutive days in June, pleaded not guilty to two counts of murder during a hearing at Wolverhampton Crown Court.

The body of Mrs Beamond, aged 80, was found hidden inside her semi-detached house in Juliet Road, Howley Grange, on June 29 after she was reported missing by family members.

Attack

A post-mortem examination found she died from head injuries suffered during a violent attack.

Mr Silverstone, who had been stabbed, was found dead on June 30 at his flat in Spencer House, Belsize Park, north-west London, after concerns were raised for his welfare.

Barnes, of Runcorn Road, Balsall Heath, Birmingham, is formally accused of murdering Mrs Beamond on June 27, while Mr Silverstone's murder is alleged to have taken place on June 28.

A further hearing in the case will be held on November 28. Barnes was remanded in custody.

New jobs in pub revamp

A BRIERLEY Hill pub is creating 15 jobs as the result of a £194,000 makeover.

The Corn Exchange in Amblecote Road closed temporarily on November 3 to begin an extensive transformation into a Flaming Grill pub restaurant, part of Spirit Pub Company. It will re-open on Sunday after a complete refurbishment.

Corn Exchange general manager Craig Delday said: "We're sure that regulars and new guests alike will be impressed."

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UKIP MEP fears threat to Black Country

THE name Greater Birmingham may be off the table but there are fears that a combined authority for Birmingham and the Black Country will erode their identities.

UKIP West Midlands MEP Bill Etheridge says he will fight the creation of a combined authority. But his sound of the alarm has been rubbished by a council leader who spearheaded the negotiations.

The Labour-run councils say they need to be in a position to handle any devolved powers they might be offered in the wake of the Scottish independence referendum. Both Tories and Labour say they will give greater powers to regions and Chancellor George Osborne has resurrected the idea of an elected mayor in Birmingham, despite a referendum ruling it out two years ago.

Sedgley councillor Mr Etheridge raised his concerns in Brussels, saying: "Birmingham and the Black Country are just that, they are Birmingham and the Black Country not just some centralised entity. Each has their own character and the priority should be increased local accountability and democracy not more unnecessary centralisation. I will be holding a series of

public meetings on this overt EU-led threat to our local identities."

"I am extremely worried more power will be taken away from the people."

Sandwell Council leader Councillor Darren Cooper said: "No one is talking about taking away the identity of any part of the Black Country. We won't support the name Greater Birmingham either."

Leader of council taken ill at Commons

THE leader of Dudley Council leader has been recovering after collapsing while giving evidence during a committee hearing at the House of Commons.

Councillor David Sparks, who is also Chairman of the Local Government Association, became unwell at a session in London on Thursday. He had attended the session of the Political and Constitutional Reform Committee session, which was hosting discussions on devolution across the UK.

The session was suspended for 45 minutes after Councillor Sparks became unwell while answering a question.

A spokesperson for the Local Government Association said: "Councillor Sparks became unwell when giving evidence. It was not serious. He recovered soon afterwards. He left to go home shortly afterwards."

The organisation posted on message through its Twitter account saying: "Our Chair was briefly unwell at today's Select Committee but is now fine and heading home, thanks to those who expressed concern."

Councillor Sparks is a ward councillor for Quarry Bank and Dudley Wood.

Police discover cannabis farm

POLICE officers have seized around 4,000 cannabis plants from an industrial unit in Lye.

The cannabis farm was found after a report that there had been a break-in at a lock-up premises on the Old Forge Trading Estate in Dudley Road.

The discovery was made at 8.35am by officers on Friday but no-one arrests were made at the site.

Detective Sergeant Richard Narrowsmore said: "Some people may be under the illusion that cannabis is a harmless drug. The reality is quite different."

Man is arrested

A MAN has been arrested in connection with an assault outside a Sedgley bar. During the attack outside Monty's Wine Bar, in High Street, on September 27, a 43-year-old man was punched to the ground. Officers said a 21-year-old man was arrested and bailed.

Councils join forces but not as 'Greater Brum'

THE Black Country and Birmingham are to join forces in a single, combined authority to try to gain more powers and funding.

But the controversial name Greater Birmingham is being blocked in favour of the all-encompassing West Midlands Combined Authority or Birmingham and the Black Country.

Wolverhampton, Walsall, Sandwell and Dudley Councils are teaming up with Birmingham City Council after their leaders thrashed out a deal. The councils would continue independently but their leaders, or representatives, would sit on a new board that looks at issues of joint concern, such as transport and regeneration.

The move is part of a plan to get greater powers over funding without the need to go cap in hand to Whitehall for access to public money.

Council leaders said unless they joined together on matters that affected the whole West Midlands, they would be left behind. They promised the combined authority would not involve a new tier of politicians and would not cost any more money to run.

Councillor David Sparks, leader of Dudley Council, said: "We need a combined authority in the West Midlands to compete with other areas which have already gone down this route. There is evidence from around the country, such as in Greater Manchester, that where councils work in a more co-ordinated way they secure significantly greater proportions of national government investment."

Councillor Darren Cooper, leader of Sandwell Council, had imposed a deadline of Christmas to complete the deal. He said the name Greater Birmingham was off the table. "I don't support that. Neither will the rest of the Black Country," he added.

Happily married for 75 years



Celebrating 75 years of marriage — Harry and Miriam Hingley, both 93, from Pensnett, are celebrating an amazing 75 years of wedded bliss.

King George VI was on the throne when they wed in 1939, and, except from wartime when Harry was away with the RAF, they have barely spent time apart.

And the secret of their success is simple — never go to bed on an argument.

The couple first met in 1938, with the help of the milkman. Mrs Hingley said: "Harry noticed me and he found out where

I lived from the man who delivered the milk and he turned up on my doorstep a few days later." The couple married on November 4, 1939 at St John's Church in Brierley Hill.

Until around eight years ago Mr Hingley was the secretary of the Midland Counties Entertainment Council, where he gave several entertainers their big break, including Lenny Henry. The couple have two daughters Patricia and Greta, and son Robert, six grandchildren, 14 great grandchildren and four great great grandchildren.

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Police are called to cup game violence

VIOLENCE broke out at a junior football match in Stourbridge

Police were called after an official was allegedly headbutted and a car driven onto the pitch during the match between under 18s sides Stourbridge Juniors and Black Country Rangers.

Birmingham County FA ended both teams a misconduct charge. Four Rangers players have been banned for violent conduct and two face misconduct charges. One Stourbridge player is serving a three match ban for violent conduct.

FA discipline boss Mike Fellows praised the referee's actions during the game at the King Edwards ground, saying "He did a really good job in taking down as much information as he could. Both teams have apologised to him."

Trouble flared at the end of the Youth Challenge Cup first round tie on October 26, which Tipton-based Rangers won 2-1.

A police spokeswoman said: "A 44-year-old man informed them he had been headbutted and an individual present fully admitted the offence. The individual has written a letter of apology and that has been accepted by all parties."

Help to buy benefits 335

THE number of people in Dudley who have benefited from the help to buy scheme has reached 335.

The latest statistics published by England Housing Minister, Brandon Lewis, has revealed that across the UK 54,000 home owners have received assistance through the project that helps people to get on the property ladder with a smaller deposit than usual.

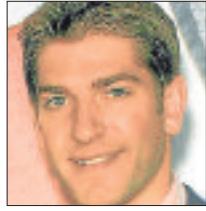
More than 1,200 people in the Black Country have bought homes using the schemes. There have been 5,547 loans in total with 337 in Wolverhampton and 304 in Sandwell.

Branch revamp

A BANK branch will temporarily close for a refurbishment this week.

The Gornal Wood branch of the Dudley Building Society will re-open at 10am on Monday. In the meantime customers can use branches in Stone Street, Dudley and High Street, Kingswinford.

US-style primary to choose Tory candidate



Dudley South MP Chris Kelly

A US-style open primary will offer voters the chance to select a Tory candidate in a key marginal West Midlands seat of Dudley South.

The Conservatives are inviting people to choose from a shortlist of candidates to replace Chris Kelly, who is standing down after one term. The move copies political parties in the USA who let voters have the final say on the candidates, even if they are not party members.

It has been used in the recent Clacton by-election, which the Tories lost to UKIP, and in the

upcoming Rochester and Strood by-election.

People have until November 21 to register at the website www.dudleysouthconservatives.com/open-primary and a public meeting will take place on November 26. It is open to anyone who lives in the constituency and is aged 18 or over.

The constituency takes in Brierley Hill, Brockmoor and Pensnett, Kingswinford North and Wall Heath, Kingswinford South, Netherton, Woodside, St Andrews and Wordsley. At the last election there

were more than 61,000 registered voters.

The winning candidate will try to defend the 3,856 vote majority Mr Kelly won from Labour in 2010. But his or she will face competition from both Labour and UKIP.

The Conservatives in Dudley were shocked earlier this month by the defection of two councillors — Glenis Simms and Cheryl Billingham — to Labour.

Mr Kelly announced he would be leaving the Commons at the General Election saying he had found

it "increasingly difficult to find the right balance between my work and my personal and family life" and that the "unpredictability of business in the Commons combined with driving back and forth between the West Midlands and London has meant that I haven't been able to see those close to me as often as I'd like".

Today he threw his support behind the open primary process, adding: "I have always worked for everyone, regardless of whether or not they voted for me."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Permit scheme for trailer trips to tip

HOMEOWNERS in Dudley are allowed up to 12 visits a year to the council's household waste recycling centre with a trailer or van under new rules.

The scheme applies to anyone visiting the centre in Birmingham Street with a trailer or commercial vehicle. It allows only one permit per household and per vehicle. Councillor Hilary Bills said: "This permit scheme will help us to make sure that Dudley borough residents, who pay for the site through their council tax, are the only people using it."

Safety campaign is a bright idea

A CAMPAIGN has been launched in Dudley to boost safety during the long dark nights.

The council's road safety team is working with schools, colleges and other groups on the Be Bright and Be Seen drive, part of the national THINK! road safety campaign.

Tips include wearing brightly coloured clothing, reflective gear at night and checking that bikes have working lights. For more information visit www.dudley.gov.uk/roadsafety

Enchanted display at the Glass Cone

A SPECIAL arts and crafts exhibition has been put together in the run up to the festive season.

The Enchanted exhibition at the Red House Glass Cone in Wordsley High Street will run from November 8 until January. It features interpretations of the festive season including artwork, jewellery and glass. The cone is open from 10am to 4pm and the exhibition is free.

Homes proposed at former pub site

THE site of a former pub has gone up for sale for £260,000.

The 19th century built Earl of Wessex in Summerhill Road, Coseley, was demolished.

Plans have been approved by Dudley Council for a prospective developer to transform the land into eight houses. The site is now up for sale.

Joe's ready to rock

BRITISH rock 'n' roll legend Joe Brown will be celebrating more than half a century making music, including a string of 1960s hits, when he performs at Dudley Town Hall on Saturday. Tickets are £25.

Schools link up to create academy education trust

FOUR schools serving around 3,000 pupils across Dudley and Staffordshire will form a new education trust.

Plans to convert to academies will be complete next month.

Ellowes Hall Sports College, in Lower Gornal, Dudley, The Crestwood School, in Kingswinford, Edgecliff High School, in Kinver, and Ounsdale High School, in Wombourne, will form the new academy trust. It is hoped the move will allow them to access 'much-needed' funding for improvements.

The multi-academy trust will go under the name Invictus, inspired by a poem by William Ernest Henley, and will be led by Ellowes Hall principal Andrew Griffiths. The Crestwood School's headteacher described the move as 'spectacular, successful and exciting' after it was approved by the Secretary of State for Education.

The new status will come into effect from December 1. The schools will gain more independence from local authorities by becoming academies with sponsorship from Invictus Education Trust.

The announcement comes months after an Ofsted inspection into Crestwood rated it 'good', a year after it was judged 'inadequate'.

Headteacher Tony Bowles said: "This is a very carefully planned collaboration. We are totally committed to ensuring all our students receive the best possible education and experiences from a vast pool of shared expertise and resources.

"We do, of course, maintain our own independence and identity and will continue to serve and represent our local communities."

Ellowes Hall principal Andrew Griffiths added: "In a couple of years we can be the best multi-academy trust in the country."

Boy, 11, is hurt as he crosses road

A YOUNG boy was badly injured when he was involved in a collision with a car in Cradley Heath.

The 11-year-old was crossing the Parade on Saturday night when he was injured.

Paramedics were called to the scene shortly after 8.20pm and treated him for hip, stomach and leg injuries before he was taken to Birmingham Children's Hospital.

Serious

He also had some facial injuries.

West Midlands Ambulance spokesman Jamie Arrowsmith said: "It quickly became apparent that the boy was seriously hurt and crews began treating him for pelvic, abdominal and leg injuries."

"He was given pain relief, had both legs put into a splint and was immobilised before being taken to Birmingham Children's Hospital on alert."

She added: "Although the boy's injuries were considered serious, they are not thought to be life threatening."

More attend Remembrance Sunday



We will remember them — standard bearers lower their flags for the two minute silence at Dudley on Sunday

RECORD numbers turned out to Remembrance Sunday services, paying their respects to the men and women who lost their lives in two world wars and other conflicts.

There were 4,000 attending Dudley's Coronation Gardens Ceremony, more than ever before as the nation marks the centenary of the start of the First World War.

Dudley North MP Ian Austin said he believed the events were so well attended as people are 'more aware than ever of the sacrifices that British

armed forces have continued to make for their country'. He added: "They want to come out and show their support and gratitude."

Poignant

Mayor of Dudley Councillor Margaret Aston said the event was especially poignant this year as the people of Dudley thought about those from the borough who lost their lives in the First World War.

"The event also gave us chance to thank men and women who are serving at home and abroad in our Armed Forces today," she said.

In Stourbridge, a parade began at Council House in Mary Stevens Park, before marching along Queen's Drive to the cenotaph for a service of Remembrance.

A wreath-laying ceremony was held by Stourbridge Army Cadets at the crematorium as part of the centenary commemorations. It was also a record turnout in Halesowen with standing room only at the church.



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THANKS for your humorous epitaphs. The expression "never speak ill of the dead" is obviously a new one. A reader found a tombstone on which one grieving husband inscribed: "Arabella Young, who on 17th July 1781 began to hold her tongue."

ANOTHER reader tells of a headstone in Yorkshire where the first lines record the death of a husband and the next line the passing of his wife. Underneath, in a different script, someone added: "She was not a virtuous woman."

MY father, too, as a fully paid-up Yorkshireman, felt no obligation to speak well of the dead. When one of his acquaintances died the local paper approached him for a few words to include in the obituary. "You may quote me," my father replied, "as saying that Mr ***** was a complete *** and the world is a much better place for his passing." Needless to say they didn't use it.

A POLL of Radio Times readers suggests the favourite movie line of all time is Buzz Lightyear's quote from Toy Story: "To infinity...and beyond!" The poll's top 10 inexplicably overlooked "May the Force be with you" from Star Wars and "I love the smell of napalm in the morning" from Apocalypse Now. Strange poll, strange result. But then who reads the Radio Times these days?

WE ALL have our personal best movie lines. One of mine is from the ceilidh scene in Local Hero when Mac asks for a 42-year-old whisky and is told it's not available. "Well," he replies, "Give me four eight-year-olds and a ten-year-old." And there's a gem of a line at the end of Jungle Book when the man-cub Mowgli, having grown up with animals, is suddenly enchanted by his first sight of a little girl. Baloo the bear growls: "Forget about those. They ain't nothing but trouble."

GOD alone knows why Michael Fallon is our Secretary of State for Defence. He looks like a suburban grocer, his background is in stockbroking and private nurseries and he has never spent a day in uniform. Yet he is the man who has ordered British troops back into Iraq, to "train" Iraqi forces how to fight the Islamic State. Train them? Which bit of "Don't run away" do the Iraqis not understand? If they are not prepared to fight for their own country, why should British soldiers be sent to hold their hands? By rights, Sunday should have been a day to rejoice, the first Remembrance Day for many years with no British "boots on the ground" in any foreign wars. Michael Fallon is changing all that. I fear events may teach him a terrible lesson.

A GOVERNMENT spokesman popped up on the radio this week to repeat one of the Great Whoppers of Our Time: "Crime has fallen by 10 per cent." No, it hasn't. It's just that thousands of criminals have abandoned the risky business of theft, fraud and mugging for the safe, warm, rewarding pastures of cyber crime. Crime on the internet is booming and most of it is ignored by the police, so it doesn't appear in any recorded-crime statistics. I have never been mugged in the street but at least once or twice a day someone tries to rob me via my computer. If you seriously think crime is falling, you really ought to be in politics.

WHY did the teenager Will Cornick murder his teacher? Because he is a psychopath. How do we know he is a psychopath? Because he murdered his teacher. Yet again a mental-health diagnosis in a murder case seems to be nothing more than being wise after the event.

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Jealous ex-lover spared jail over arson

A SPURNED lover who pushed a burning toilet roll through the letterbox at the home of his former girlfriend has been spared jail.

Arsonist Michael Woodall carried out the attack after he found out she was involved with another man, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

The 20-year-old scrawled abusive messages on the walls outside her

home in Crescent Avenue, Brierley Hill, before setting fire to a toilet roll and forcing it through the letterbox.

Recorder Mr Stuart Sprawson said: "This offence would usually be deserving of an immediate prison sentence but this is an exceptional case where I can make you the subject of a community order."

The court heard that Woodall had

been involved in a stormy 18-month relationship with the woman before the pair parted in November 2013.

Mr Stuart Clarkson, prosecuting, said they were initially on good terms after their relationship expired but that changed in February after the woman admitted she was seeing another man. Woodall embarked on a campaign of threats via phone calls and text messages

Mr Kevin Grego, defending, said: "His depressive illness now appears to be under control with appropriate medication."

Woodall, of Park Road, Lower Gornal, admitted committing arson. He was handed a two year community order with 200 hours unpaid work and ordered to pay £60. He was ordered not to contact his victim or her mother for eight years.

Stray horses costing taxpayers over £90k

ALMOST £100,000 has been spent tackling the number of horses illegally grazing on a borough's parks and nature reserves.

Dudley Council used some of the £95,000 over the last financial year to pay an independent bailiff company to impound the animals.

This month the council continues to warn horse owners that their animals will be taken if found on parks and nature reserves.

By Alex Ross

The most recent action took place last month when two horses were seized from council-owned land off Bryce Road, Pensnett.

The council has also revealed it has impounded more than 460 horses from roads and pathways over the past three years.

RSPCA

Officers say they work with animal charity RSPCA.

Environment boss Councillor Hilary Bills said: "The council has developed a range of policies and services to help deal with the problem, including the introduction of the reactive service to remove horses from the highway, in partnership with the local police and a local horse removal contractor."

Councillor Bills added: "Unfortunately the number of horses left in poor condition by irresponsible owners can increase in the winter months. We adopt a robust monitoring regime."

The problem is mirrored in Sandwell, where authorities have also been working with bailiffs.

"The council also regularly monitors the numbers of horses illegally fly grazing on council owned land and periodically takes action through a separate retained horse bailiff with specific targeted impounding activity."

The council also posts enforcement notices at certain locations warning anyone who may leave their horses on council-owned that the horses may be impounded.

Officers say they continue to check the health of animals grazing on council-owned land and work with the RSPCA and local vets when a horse requires treatment.

Councillor Bills added: "Since 2011 there have been more than 460 horses taken from the public highway using this service, reducing the risk to pedestrians, motorists and horses alike, and this service is seen as model system nationwide."

Gender abortions 'unacceptable'

AN MP has called abortions on the basis of gender 'completely wrong' after voting in favour of tougher measures against it.

Ian Austin, who represents Dudley North, backed a vote to clarify the illegality of aborting foetuses based on their sex. MPs are calling for extra safeguards to tackle the estimated 1,400 sex selective abortions in the UK.

Labour MP Mr Austin said: "Sex selective abortion is completely wrong, and we need to be clear that it's unacceptable at home or abroad. Any measure that helps eliminate this practice in the UK deserves our support."

Thieves ruin rider's dreams



Rising star of motocross Kyai Bailey with the van that his two bikes were stolen from

AN UP-and-coming motocross rider who has been selected for the British Youth National side has spoken of his sadness after thieves stole his two bikes worth up to £10,000 just hours after a competition.

Kyai Bailey's parents say his dreams have been shattered after the bikes were taken by raiders who broke into van where they had been kept. Thieves smashed windows to get into the van, owned by Kyai's father Matthew who runs pallet company Paltech, in the early hours of November 3.

The van was parked on the drive way of Kyai's grandparents home in Park Walk, Quarry Bank.

The 13-year-old, who attends The Wordsley School, said: "I am really shocked. It is heartbreaking."

The two machines are both big-wheeled KTM bikes, worth a total of around £10,000. Both had distinctive markings including the number 381.

Anyone with information is asked to call police on 101.

Winter warmth scheme saves club

A SPORTS and social club which had its central heating system condemned has been saved by Dudley Council's Winter Warmth scheme.

Netherton Sports and Social Club had to close its doors and cancel all upcoming events until funds could be raised to replace the heating system.

Club president Madge Hill, who had relied upon the scheme to warm her own home last winter, contacted the council out of desperation.

The authority has since provided four oil filled radiators free of charge on indefinite loan until the central heating system has been replaced.

Housing boss Councillor Gaye Partridge said: "We recognise the importance of supporting community groups, along with residents themselves. The winter warmth scheme was happy to help the club and to make sure that the clubs and groups that use it as a venue, often for older people, could still go ahead even as the weather has turned colder. The club's committee was very appreciative."

Anyone worried about keeping their home warm this winter should call (01384) 817086.

Representing the region

A BUSINESS in Stourbridge has been chosen to represent the region in the national Small Business Saturday campaign.

Hair removal business Tej and Co started in 2002.

Councillor Judy Foster, cabinet member for regeneration at Dudley Council and Steve Parker, Black Country chairman of the Federation of Small Business, made a visit to the business to discuss Small Business Week which runs from December 1. Owner Tejinder Ghag said: "Small Business Saturday captured my imagination."

Crash by school

A CAR crashed through railings at a Dudley school half an hour before classes were due to start.

The crash outside Roberts Primary School in Lower Gornal was at 8.20am on November 4. No-one, including the 19-year-old driver, was hurt.

MP calls meeting over college site

STOURBRIDGE MP Margaret James has called a public meeting over a disused school in the town which is causing concern.

The former Longlands School still stands empty, following closure as a college building three years ago.

Site owner Birmingham Metropolitan College has been looking to sell the land. Meanwhile, nearby residents have complained about the decaying state of the buildings.

The meeting on the site's future is at Greenfield Primary School on November 28 at 6pm.

One person injured in three car crash

ONE person was taken to hospital after two cars hit a garden fence in Lower Gornal last week.

The incident happened at the junction of Hunters Mill Drive and Coopers Bank Road in Lower Gornal shortly after 10pm on Tuesday, November 4.

Three cars were involved in the crash before two vehicles struck a wooden garden fence.

West Midlands Ambulance Service took one patient to Russells Hall with minor injuries.

Looking back one thousand years

THE Black Country Society will continue its series of lectures with a talk on life in Mercia over a thousand years ago.

The talk at the Black Country Living Museum on November 26, from 7.30pm, will be given by Dr Richard Denning. He will look at clothing, food, weaponry, laws and religion, bringing along several artefacts. Admission is £1.50 with refreshments.

Festive lights to be switched on

THE Halesowen Christmas lights will be officially switched on at an event on Saturday.

Dudley Council with Halesowen Chamber of Trade and Cornbow Shopping Centre will stage the event. From 11am there will be fair rides in High Street and entertainment in Hagley Street, before the switch-on at 5pm.

Retro styles at fair

A RETRO fair featuring vintage fashion and pop-up hair and beauty salon is being held in Stourbridge on Saturday at St Thomas's church hall, Market Street, 11am to 4pm. It will also feature crafts.

Warning after spate of thefts from cars

MOTORISTS in Stourbridge are being warned after a spate of thefts from vehicles prompted police to step up action.

Councillors and residents have been told about the problems with items being stolen from cars including the Old Quarter area of the town.

Police officers in the Wollaston and Stourbridge Town Neighbourhood Police team say they are addressing the issues following reports from residents.

Crime prevention literature has been distributed to people living in the neighbourhood reminding people not to leave items of value on display in vehicles.

Ward Councillor Nic Barlow urged people to be alert to anyone acting suspiciously in the neighbourhood near parked cars.

"It is a case of staying vigilant at the moment and if anyone sees someone acting suspiciously they need to report it to the police," he said.

"The police have said they are proactive in trying to do something about it, which is reassuring."

It comes after police reiterated warnings to motorists' not to leave vehicles unlocked while defrosting windows in the mornings.

NaNoWriMo library event

PEOPLE taking part in the National Novel Writing Month (NaNoWriMo) are invited to an event in Dudley.

NaNoWriMo launched worldwide this month and challenges participants to write a 50,000 word novel by the end of November.

To encourage people to get writing, Kingswinford Library will host an event for all budding writers. Guests including authors Anne-Marie Vukelic and Nell Dixon will be at the event on Saturday, November 22, 11am to 1pm. Call (01384) 812740 to book a place.

Village soldiers

ON Sunday Clent History Society will be paying tribute to the men from the village who fought in the First World War.

A special display will be held in Clent Parish Hall, Church Avenue, from 11am to 4pm. Admission is £2, children go free.

Increase in four-hour A&E waiting times

Longer wait – Russells Hall Hospital, Dudley

MORE than 1,000 people waited at least four hours in accident and emergency at Russells Hall Hospital – a rise of more than 200. But the trust in charge still beat its NHS-set target for the 13 weeks up to the end of September.

There were 1,050 patients who waited more than four hours compared with 816 people for the same period last year.

The hospital kept within the target of 95 per cent of people being treated at accident and emergency within the four hours, hitting 95.9 per cent. The year before the hospital scored 96.6 per cent. The figures

also showed the hospital had a rise in accident and emergency admissions, up 1,562 to 25,536 over the period.

Paula Clark, chief executive at Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, said the hospital had not experienced the expected reduction in admissions over the summer.

She said: "One reason was a real rise in demand. Demand from the public has increased but we have more elderly patients and also seen a steep rise in children under two attending."

Labour parliamentary candidate for Dudley South, Natasha Millward, will be asking health bosses for a meeting. She said: "Waiting times have a massive impact on people who are ill and just want to be seen as quickly and efficiently as possible. People are really concerned."

The increase in people waiting more than four hours at accident and emergency departments at Russells Hall Hospital is mirrored at hospitals across the region.

Sandwell and West Birmingham NHS Trust, which manages Sandwell General Hospital and City Hospital, had 3,345 patients waiting more than four hours, out of 39,216 admissions.

The last elderly residents leave as care home closes

A CARE home has closed with the loss of 21 jobs as the last remaining elderly residents were found new accommodation.

The Homestead at Prestwood was placed into the hands of administrators Diana Frangou and Dilip Dattani, of Baker Tilly, after its managing company Elysian Care Ltd went into administration.

There were hopes the 38-bed home could be sold and all 25 residents remain, but over three weeks families of the residents, aged up to 96, found alternative accommodation.

Last week administrators confirmed the home had now closed, and that all 21 staff had been made redundant. A further 15 staff left ahead of the home closure.

Sylvia Ellis moved her 96-year-old mother Ethel Fazey from the home last month. Mrs Fazey had moved to the home two years ago, after leaving her house in Wollaston.

Mrs Ellis, aged 67, said: "The closure has had a huge impact on the residents. They all loved it there and didn't want to move again. This was the place they wanted to stay at for the rest of their lives."

Councillor Barlow said: "The closure of the care home is very disappointing and has impacted not just the residents, but also the families who have to find new homes. I have had conversations with an officer at Dudley Council to find out where it went wrong and how we had worked to support people living there."

Staffordshire County Council stepped in to pay staff wages after concerns were raised about Elysian Care Ltd's financial viability at the start of last month.

The home was registered independently with the county council and Dudley Council.

School gate parking plea to parents

A BLITZ on parking outside schools has been launched by council bosses to improve road safety.

Dudley Council is calling on parents to rethink the way they park up outside the school gates.

A campaign called 'cars and kids don't mix' has been launched in Netherton.

Bosses hope it will reduce road congestion, while increasing road safety for children going to school.

Leaflets

Leaflets are being given to parents and children and special talks are being held by the council's road safety team.

Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, cabinet member for transport, said: "We're asking motorists to be more mindful when parking even for a short period of time near schools."

He added: "Yellow zig-zag lines are outside schools for a very good reason – to keep pupils safe by creating a sight line that enables them to see and be seen before crossing the road."

The closure of the care home is very disappointing and has impacted not just the residents, but also the families who have to find new homes. I have had conversations with an officer at Dudley Council to find out where it went wrong and how we had worked to support people living there."

Black Country businessman Roy Richardson, who was behind the Merry Hill Shopping Centre with his brother Don, has handed Dudley's Priory Park Amateur Boxing Club £20,000 to finish the work.

The new building will have rings, changing rooms and punch bags, as well as providing personal training sessions.

Roy's knockout move helps boxers

Just champion – head coach Paul Gough, left, celebrates with Roy Richardson and Dudley North MP Ian Austin

A BOXING club is celebrating a knockout success after securing the cash needed to extend its base.

Black Country businessman Roy Richardson, who was behind the Merry Hill Shopping Centre with his brother Don, has handed Dudley's Priory Park Amateur Boxing Club £20,000 to finish the work.

The new building will have rings, changing rooms and punch bags, as well as providing personal training sessions.

Paul Gough, head coach, said: "Roy has helped out with the club twice now and I really cannot thank him enough for all he has done. It will be a massive benefit once completed and not just for the boxers."

It really will be for the benefit of the whole community."

The Priory Road club, started in 1975, has turned out a series of champions including middleweight Ryan Aston and welterweight Tommy Ghent. It currently has 60 members.

Dudley North MP Ian Austin said: "The boxing club makes a massive difference here in Dudley. It helps keep these kids off the street. Roy is a great man. The donation he has given is going to make a massive difference."

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It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

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money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done.

We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole.'

Cloudy2Clear service Wolverhampton and the surrounding

area and Brian is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. 'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people

I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Brian a call for a free quotation on 0800 61 21 118 and he'll be happy to help!

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IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews

NAPOLEON once dismissed Britain as 'a nation of shopkeepers'. Well according to a rather new depressing survey into our towns and cities, the Black Country and its environs is now a region of bookies, pawnbrokers and kebab shops.

Now, I really would like to be angry about the study by retail analysts Harper Dennis Hobbs, which ranks Dudley the worst of Britain's 500 main shopping destinations, with Halesowen, Bilston and Rugeley faring only marginally better. However, it is surely only telling us what we already know. Indeed, judging from the public reaction to the study, the main bone of contention among people in this area is how Wolverhampton, which comes in at a middling 262nd place in the survey, is not down there with them.

Outraged civic leaders say the figures fail to take into account the many regeneration schemes lined up for their areas. But aside from the proposed new Debenhams store at the Mander Centre, which will hopefully give Wolverhampton a boost, what else is in the pipeline to turn around these towns which persistently punch below their weight? Is a new market place in Dudley really going to bring back the likes of Beatties? I doubt it.

Of course, it is unfair to lay all the blame at cash-strapped councils, which in reality do not have as much power as we would like to think over where retailers choose to locate. What would be nice, though, would be for our leaders to admit there is a problem, instead of indignantly protesting at the unfairness of it all. Talking up tourism really isn't much help when it comes to the weekly shop.

The one ray of hope is the Queen's Square shopping centre in West Bromwich, which has breathed some life into the town by giving people what they want - large retail units with ample car parking, which are able to attract the big-name retailers. More please.

I'm a Black Country lad, and I will always support my local town, whatever the surveys say. But I do this out of blind loyalty, in pretty much the same way that I will always support Aston Villa, even though, more often than not, this involves paying out for an experience which leaves me feeling deflated and disheartened.

The trouble is, I suspect I am one of a dying breed, and this cannot bode well for the Black Country at all. Just as many youngsters today reject the dubious pleasures of supporting their underachieving local teams in favour of watching the expensively assembled stars of Chelsea, Manchester City or United on television, how likely is it that many of the younger generation will continue to support the likes of our ailing towns and cities, when they can just hop on a train to the bright lights of Birmingham's Bull Ring?



Present day pit guide Pete Myatt from Pedmore



Black Country miners about to go underground



In the thick of it - guide Keith Mellor from Halesowen

WEEK IN POLITICS

with Daniel Wainwright

WHAT'S in a name? Well, plenty as it happens, particularly when it comes to the identity of the Black Country.

Greater Birmingham is dead. Long live the West Midlands Combined Authority or Birmingham and the Black Country, the councillors haven't figured that one out quite yet.

Five councils have joined forces to work on matters that affect them all and take advantage of whatever new powers or funding they might be offered by the Government.

And the reason they have done it is because the Heart of England is in danger of becoming a squeezed middle. The south east is expanding. The northern towns and cities are teaming up.

If the Black Country and Brum are to get any more than crumbs off the table they have to be pulling in the same direction. At least that's the theory behind the long-running saga of Greater Birmingham.

The problem was that every time some well-meaning person uttered it in the hope of drawing attention to the West Midlands, all it did was provoke a debate about identity.

The use of Greater Birmingham in any sort of marketing exercise did not result in national newspapers writing how the West Midlands was on the up but how its various towns were up in arms about something the London elite found to be terribly quaint. But the Black Country is the Black Country. It won't simply be quietly absorbed. We ay Brummies.

The name Greater Birmingham was supposed to be about unity and solidarity. In fact it just turned out to be terribly divisive.

The combined authority is nothing to really get hot under the collar about. No-one is suggesting a new layer of bureaucracy or generous allowances for councillors. Nor are they planning on having yet more elections that barely anyone will bother turning out to vote in.

But even since the coalition parties and Labour promised Scotland far greater control over its own affairs, there has been a lot of talk about doing the same in England.

That means whether it's the Tories, Labour or another coalition featuring one or the other after the General Election, something has to exist in the West Midlands to take advantage of anything that's on offer.

We're already playing catch up. Greater Manchester has had one for a few years.

Maybe that's why the name Greater Birmingham seemed to roll off so many tongues. As a region we need to get our swagger back and remember what a big deal we are, particularly when we're on the same side.

Birmingham is bigger than Manchester. It's the second city. It's time for the West Midlands to show London we should be priority number one.

Museum's mine marks milestone

The Black Country Living Museum coal mine exhibit is 25 years old. **CHARLIE BENTON** reports

ITS dark, winding tunnels have transported a generation of museum visitors back in time to the subterranean world of the Black Country's mining past.

Now the Black Country Living Museum is celebrating 25 years since its £1 million man-made coal mine exhibit first opened to the public.

Four million visitors have been taken 'into the thick' since November 1989, up to 1,500 a day during peak times.

The Black Country was famous for the Staffordshire Thick Coal, which lay beneath much of the area in seams up to 10 metres thick and the mine exhibit was created to show how miners worked the thick coal and other seams in the Black Country in about 1850.

Maze

The mine itself is a 'drift mine', accessed by walking down a sloping tunnel.

As it comes to an end it splits into a maze of roadways and working areas, recreating the underground conditions as they would have been more than 160 years ago, with the roof coming as low as 1.5 metres in some places.

The mine, which wasn't built until 10 years after the museum itself was first opened, was the brainchild of former director of the museum Ian Walden and was funded entirely by the council and local businesses.

In total, there are over 200 metres worth of tunnels which makes the Into the Thick exhibit one of the largest, if not the largest, replica mine tours in the UK.



Original mine guides Barry Salt, Bryan Harris and Ron Butcher

After originally looking at opening up an old mine, the museum chose to use cement blocks to build a brand new, man-made mine to prevent risks to visitors and minimise flooding.

Despite being unsafe to reopen as an exhibit, the museum has a total of 42 disused mineshafts underneath it. Two of them are preserved at the Racecourse Colliery and Brook Shaft areas of the museum.

Back in the 1800s many of the mines across the Black Country not only endangered their workers, but also those

who lived in houses above them, which were slowly 'pit-pulled' down into the empty space below. The museum has an example of the phenomenon on-site in the form of a 'tilted cottage'.

"It's easy to forget the kind of working conditions miners were subjected to," said David Eveleigh, Director of Collections, Learning & Research at the museum. "The mine tour is important because it immerses our visitors into the world of the miner in a way that hearing or reading about it simply can't."

"It is one of the most popular activities on our site for good reason and it especially resonates with children, the group which would have suffered the most at the hands of lax labour laws."

Ken Bradley, chairman of the Friends of the Black Country Museum group, said: "The museum wanted to illustrate how vital mining was to the area and how dangerous that work was."

"The site that the museum is built on actually had many working mines and there were enquiries made as to whether one of them could be used but the idea was turned down by the mine safety people as there were lots of problems with it."

"The director decided that a way around this would be to do a reconstruction mine and that is how it came about."

Mr Bradley said the contractors brought in to construct the mine were also involved with the living history Jork Viking attraction in York.

"The contractors at the time made panels out of synthetic materials to simulate the coalface," Mr Bradley said. "But when they were laying them they came across a real coal seam."

"Although they weren't allowed to leave the seam itself open they actually took patterns and remade the panels to look exactly the same."

He added: "My father was a coal miner in a real working mine and stepping into the reconstruction for the first time all those years ago suddenly brought everything back because it is so realistic."

As part of the anniversary celebrations the original tour guides have been invited back to the museum to take a tour themselves to commemorate the milestone.

Bryan Harris, of Gornal, 78, was a mine guide for more than 20 years from the 1989 opening. The former banker decided after he retired that he wanted to do something completely different. He said: "I loved every minute of it."

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Most people do not want this mosque

IN response to Councillor Walther's comments regarding officers supporting the new mosque scheme.

The question has to be asked, is he in possession of inside knowledge, as he is not a member of the Planning Committee.

I would also query the figures in opposition of the scheme, and his comments that "it would bring the Community together and transform an eyesore site".

Fair tax? Make big boys pay

WHY is it that when large companies and famous 'personalities' do not pay the full amount of tax that seems due from them it is always called tax avoidance?

Then when your local tradesman/friend of a friend earns a little cash on the side with some undeclared income it has become tax evasion. How, and why, does it change?

Could it be that governments, of all political colours, rely on big companies and 'personalities' for help? Or do they have high-powered legal teams and accountants to help them avoid/evasion taxes? Local trades-people don't have these advantages.

Here is some advice to HMRC. Get some of the 'big boys'. Make them pay. It isn't fair to the citizens of this country that preferential treatment is given to some. Remember the Prime Minister said that we are all in this together.

M GOUGH
Wombourne

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

Dudley Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
51-53 Queen Street,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

E-MAIL

Dudley.chrons@expressandstar.co.uk

No logic to lumping us with Birmingham

IT is with increasing consternation that I am reading more and more about the proposals for Greater Birmingham.

It is just typical of unelected ill-educated bureaucrats in the European Union that they are investigating such a ridiculous idea. Drawing random lines across a map to define 'regions' is a sure fire way to cause dissent from the peoples on either side of them.

In 1916, two diplomats, one French and one British, drew a line across the Middle East to divide up the interests of France and Britain. Today the line created by Sir Paul Sykes and Francois Picot, over a bottle of whisky, is at the centre of the attempt by IS to create a caliphate based on the Ottoman Empire.

The comparison between the two is that some demographic knowledge is required before any division or amalgamation of peoples.

Although I do not envisage taking up arms against the Brummies, I can see no way that any in the Black Country will ever identify as part of Birmingham, so there will be friction for as long as this ill thought out idea persists.

It is as sensible as drinking whisky whilst trying to sort out the troubles of the Middle East.

M DAY
Dudley

With two petitions on this application, of more than fifty thousand names, it has no chance of bringing the community together.

I note that the Friends of Dudley Hippodrome have missed their deadline to submit their proposed plans by one day and yet the Dudley Muslim Association have missed their deadline of 31st December 2008 by more than 2,000 days and are still wasting tax payers money with the council having to fight against their proposals.

PHIL CHERRINGTON
Dudley

Concern at attack that injured dog

MY son took his dog on the lead on his regular tea time walk at Cotwell End Nature Reserve, as he reached the woods a pack of five bull greyhounds — cross between a greyhound and a bull mastiff — attacked my son's dog.

After a traumatic struggle, my son's dog was finally free but had suffered severe bites. It had to be taken to the animal hospital where one bite required 25 stitches.

Police advised me that although it was a dangerous situation no law had been broken until the dogs attack a person. Can you imagine what the situation would have been had this been a child or a person carrying a dog?

The law is clearly in need of alteration to avoid future horrific incident and I intend to appeal to my MP.

I would urge all walkers at Cotwell End to avoid walking on their own.

MICHAEL LAW
Dudley

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Daphne Slade, left, with her distant aunt and uncle in Norton Canes



Ray and Reg Williams were evacuated to Colton from Westgate-on-Sea



Peter Phipps of Margate was billeted in Hedgesford

Emotive look at Children on the Move during war

MEMORY LANE

By Adam Burling

THE stories of children sent away to live with new families during the Second World War is being told in an exhibition.

Many youngsters from across England ended up in Staffordshire as they were ushered away from the firing line. And they built up relationships with their new families that ended up lasting a lifetime.

Evocative images are on display at the Museum of Cannock Chase in Hedgesford in the Children on the Move exhibition.

Among the evacuees was Daphne Slade, who was evacuated from London to Norton Canes at the age of five.

She remembers clearly the blackout in London and how the kerbs were painted so people 'wouldn't knock into each other' as they walked.

Her parents had letters about the evacuation and decided to send Daphne and her sister on 'The City of Benares', a ship travelling to Canada.

They were sent instead with a distant auntie and uncle in Norton Canes and travelled there by train by themselves. The couple were publicans and

Daphne learned to play the piano in their bar. When the London bombing got worse her parents moved in with them and then got a house three doors down.

Ivy Field, from Birmingham, ended up at Pipewood boarding school for girls near Rugeley. She had originally been taken to Henley-in-Arden in Warwickshire before being transferred.

At Pipewood, Ivy spent a lot of time outside with the rest of the boarders, tending to chickens and her little vegetable patch, and attending the local church on Sundays.

She can remember the monthly Sunday visits by her family, and received one or two visits from her cousin who was based at Hedgesford.

Ivy said she thanks her time at Pipewood for teaching her skills she might otherwise not have had the chance to learn, like typing, filleting fish and dancing. While she was at Pipewood her house received a direct hit, so she

could never return to her original family home. All of her family had been out of the house at the time, and so they were all safe.

Another Pipewood evacuee was Ethel Ridley, who travelled there from Sparkbrook in Birmingham.

Children such as Shirley Webb had come from as far away as Kent, where she left behind her parents to stay in Colton.

Along with her brother, they were taken to the biggest house in the village which stood in its own grounds.

They were taken care of by their 18-year-old daughter who did not really know how to look after small children. Shirley and her brother ended up spending more time with the house servants. They shared their meals with the servants and the cook in particular was a lovely lady who used to take them back to her home in Rugeley.

The exhibition runs until December 19. Collections officer Yvonne Cooper said: "There is a wide range of stories about children that were evacuated.

"We have complemented it with artefacts from our own Second World War collection, which adds more to it."



Miss Evans-Rose, headmistress at Pipewood boarding camp took this shot of girls getting ready for bed



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Passengers flee as their bus bursts into flames



Lucky escape – no-one was hurt in the blaze which ripped through the bus. Pictures by Robert Cartwright

PASSENGERS were forced to flee a bus that burst into flames.

The blaze broke out at the back of a double deck National Express bus in Quarry Bank High Street on Thursday morning, just before 7am.

Firefighters said that about 20 per cent of the bus was engulfed in flames towards the rear of the lower deck.

Robert Cartwright was heading to work when he saw the fire. He said: "I first noticed the fire when I pulled up behind a parked lorry which couldn't get past because of it. The fire service

turned up almost immediately. It only took them about two or three minutes. It was quite surreal to see this bus with flames just pouring out of it."

National Express spokesman Jack Kelly said: "There were about eight people on the bus. The driver heard a noise, immediately stopped the vehicle and got people off. Nobody was hurt during the incident and we are working hard to establish the cause."

Firefighters from Haden Cross and Brierley Hill were called to the number 41 bus which runs through Halesowen and Cradley Heath to Merry Hill shopping centre.



Firefighters tackling the blaze

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Carnival to be revived in 2015

A DATE has been set for the revival of Halesowen's carnival and parade after nearly 30 years without the once popular town event.

New committee members have come on board to boost plans for a revived carnival to take place in Halesowen next summer.

Plans are gathering pace behind the project to host the first Halesowen Carnival and parade in 29 years. Organisers have set a date, July 4 2015, for the event.

The annual carnival was a highlight in the calendar for thousands in its heyday.

Event organiser Simon Walker says he had been boosted by three new committee members. It comes as a business plan is being finalised to show how the carnival in Huntingtree Park will be funded.

Thug jailed for two years after stabbing his partner

A THUG stabbed his partner in the arm as her one-year-old daughter slept nearby.

Miles Charters got involved in a row with the woman in the kitchen of her Cradley Heath home while cleaning a knife, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard. The 27-year-old was still clutching it when he followed her upstairs where her three children were sleeping on April 20.

She grabbed hold of the blade, cutting the palm of her hand, and was knifed in the forearm when he pushed her onto the bed where the youngest girl slept.

Mr Gurdeep Garcha, prosecuting, said: "He had banged the head of the woman against the work surface in the kitchen and grabbed her hair."

"She went upstairs to get away from him, believing that he would not follow because of the children but he appeared in the bedroom holding the knife."

"She was scared for her life and grabbed at it. Then she put up her arm to protect herself after feeling the point of the blade against her face and received a substantial cut. She lost a lot of blood."

Charters stopped the attack after seeing the extent of the injury and offered to call for an ambulance. The victim ran to the house of a neighbour and was taken to hospital, where her wounds required 25 stitches. She is likely to be scarred for life.

Charters from Galton Road, Bearwood, who had several previous convictions involving violence against women, pleaded guilty to wounding and was sent to prison for two years by Recorder David Mason QC. He also made an indeterminate restraining order banning Charters from making any contact with the victim.

Euro offenders being sent home

MORE than 200 convicted and suspected foreign criminals — including alleged murderers and rapists — have been arrested and removed from the West Midlands in five years under the European Arrest Warrant.

Figures released by the Home Office show that in the region, 223 wanted individuals have been surrendered to foreign authorities under the measure. More than 50 people had been wanted for alleged theft offences, 16 for alleged drugs trafficking and 33 for suspected fraud.

The figures included four alleged murderers, six suspected rapists, nine suspected armed robbers and eight people wanted for alleged immigration and human trafficking offences. Off the 223, 123 were surrendered to Poland. Other countries include the Czech Republic with 18 and Lithuania 13.

Comic with lots of character



Andrew McBurney won the Birmingham Comedy Festival Breaking Talent Award

COMIC Andrew McBurney has got his sights set on the big time after scooping an award for best breaking talent at Birmingham Comedy Festival.

Mr McBurney, from Cradley Heath, began getting into comedy around three years ago.

"It was me and a few other friends," he said. "I said 'you know all these things talk about when we're on our own, why don't we film them?' We started making our own sketches and it went from there."

"Just after, a girl I had been with for about eight years left me, and from that I made my first sketch which was about a guy who had been dumped trying to make himself feel better."

He first took his show to an open mic night at the Holly Bush pub in Cradley Heath.

"People actually really liked it so I kept doing it," Mr McBurney said. "I have expanded into other characters now."

Mr McBurney was given the Breaking Talent award at the Glee Club in Birmingham last month by Jasper Carrott, who helped judge the contest.

Festival

Mr McBurney, who moved to the Black Country 21 years ago from Glasgow, said he has toured the country with his act including a return to Scotland at the Edinburgh Festival.

He is now hoping to give up his T-shirt making job to become a full time comedian.

"I think if you want to be a comedian you will feel it in yourself," Mr McBurney said.

"You just need to get over the self-doubt, go out there and do it," he said.

Almost 500 children wait to be adopted

ALMOST 500 children are waiting to be adopted in the West Midlands. First4Adoption, the national adoption information service for England, revealed that 250,000 people used the service since it launched in January 2013.

Figures released by the Department for Education show 490 children waiting to be adopted in the West Midlands.

Gemma Gordon-Johnson, head of service at First4Adoption, said: "There have been important improvements in the adoption system that has made it easier to place children with families as quickly as possible. But there is still more to be done. We need more people to come forward and start their adoption story if the needs of all children, for who adoption is the best option, are going to be met."

Families Minister Edward Timpson, who has two adopted brothers, said: "With thousands of children across the country still waiting for a loving home, it's vital we continue to do all we can to recruit new parents."

Duck race will return

BEWDLEY'S annual duck race is to return on New Year's Day, despite the event having to be postponed during the past two years.

Storms and heavy rainfall resulted in the River Severn water levels at the Worcestershire town being so high that the event had to be put off.

But organisers at the Lions Club are determined that the traditional race should be held this New Year's Day race, when it usually raises large sums for charity.

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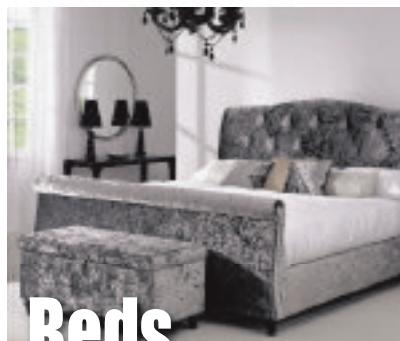
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Evening of skittles was a success

Wollaston 'E' TWG

IN the absence of the chairman, vice-Chairman Hazel Needham welcomed 47 members and one visitor, Elaine Skidmore, to the October meeting.

There is a list in circulation for names of members who would like to attend the Christmas party on December 9. The cost is £5 and if possible this should be paid at the next meeting.

The annual skittles evening and fish and chip supper attracted approximately 40 members and friends and was enjoyed by all.

Many people returned home with prizes. The success of this evening was due to the impeccable organisation of Jill Dunn to whom we express huge thanks.

Forthcoming events include the carol service in Cobden Street Methodist Church, Wollaston on December 3 and the Federation Carol Service in St Thomas' Church, Stourbridge, on December 14. This service will be followed by the usual coffee and mince pies served in the adjoining church hall.

The speaker for the evening was Mrs C Carley who entertained us with an eye opening and amusing account of her nursing experiences in the African bush.

Trained by the Salvation Army, she was first sent out to Zimbabwe where she had to deal with victims of tropical diseases. Competition winners were Sue Llewellyn and Pat Archer, while raffle prizes went to Barbara Homer and Jill Perry.

The next meeting is on November 11 at 7.30pm.

Talking on deadly Black Country raid

Sedgley Local History Club

A meal and £500 cheque for charity

W-ton Soroptomists

FOLLOWING an enjoyable meal at The Lindens, Tettenhall Road President Jan presented a cheque for £500 to Amy Johnson of Promise Dreams, this year's president's charity.

Amy commented she had worked for the charity for the last nine years and Promise Dreams was launched in 2001 to make dreams come true for seriously and terminally ill children and their families.

The president then welcomed and installed Elen McGregor as St Wolverhampton's newest member and also guest for the evening, Mina.

Jan reported she had spent a most enjoyable evening at Bilton club's SI dinner. A new members evening had been held and attended by five new members, supported by club

members and hosted by Renee White. A membership pack which had been especially completed with emphasis on the Wolverhampton Club and handed to each member.

The president continued with thanks to members of the club who had attended Footprints Orphanage Annual Ball and who presented a cheque for £100 towards the purchase of mosquito nets.

The club had further held a very successful 1940's early evening event which had raised over £500.

A 'pink' bring and buy stand at the meeting had raised £73 towards Breast Cancer awareness.

Visit www.sibi.org/wolverhampton

THE next meeting of the society takes place tonight (Thursday) at 7.30pm in St Andrew's Church, Bilston Street, Sedgley. The speaker is Derek Nicholls, a local historian from Tipton.

Derek has spent 18 months researching the deadly raid on Tipton, Bradley, Wednesbury and Walsall in January 1916 inflicted by a Zeppelin that had lost its way.

In around half an hour the L.21 had destroyed homes and buildings killing about 35 and injuring 20.

With stalemate on the Western Front, Zeppelin raids started in January 1915 with bombs dropped on King's Lynn and Great Yarmouth. During WW1 about 50 raids were made on Britain killing over 500 civilians and injuring over 1,300.

Three unsuccessful attempts to bomb central Birmingham resulted in only minor damage on the outskirts. As usual visitors are welcome – admission £1. Annual membership of the society costs £5 and gives free access to the programme of talks.

Film makers show their skills

Penn Towns Women's Guild

Mrs McInnes welcomed everyone to the meeting and after the Guild business was completed, introduced the speakers for the evening, Wolverhampton Film Makers.

They showed films made by their members, the first of which was Blackpool in October which included scenes of tramcars, the Tower Ballroom and Wurlitzer Organ and five miles of illuminations taking one million lights and 200 miles of cable. Other

short films followed including changing seasons with background music, Last of the Summer Wine and the spectacular scenery around Holmfirth, West Yorkshire.

The Gardening Group enjoyed a walk round Bantock Park and a coffee.

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Moving tale of First World War courage

Regeneration,
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre
WITH perfect timing as we approached November 11, the stage adaptation of Pat Barker's trilogy, Regeneration, opened at Wolverhampton.

It is a traumatic tale of the horrors of the First World War where boys became men through a series of unspeakable experiences. Yet there are moments of subtle wit, bringing light relief to this moving piece. The

action takes place in psychiatric hospital where a renowned neurologist is tasked with ensuring young officers are in sufficient state to return to the front.

Condensing three novels into one two and a half hour play is not an easy task, but Nicholas Wright's seamless script achieved this with ease.

Stephen Boxer as Captain Rivers gave an emotional, understated performance, while Tim Delap as poet

Siegfried Sassoon offered a powerful depiction and Garmont Rhys was superbly gentle soul Wilfred Owen. The evening really belonged to the extraordinary portrayal of Billy Prior, a working class lad promoted to officer, by Jack Monaghan who perfectly depicted a soldier hiding his fear.

It was a well performed adaptation of a story from a thought-provoking period of history, lest we forget.

Alison Norton

Three get hands on with show

REVIEWS

Mir-fan-das out for YouTube star

Miranda Sings, Wulfrun Hall, Wolverhampton

THE YouTube phenomenon kicked off her UK tour in front of full house of her besotted Mir-fan-das, mostly teenaged followers of her viral internet foolery.

Californian singer, comedian and actress Colleen Ballinger arrived on stage as herself, giving a fine rendition of Defying Gravity during which she transformed into her comically inept alter-ego. Swapping her sparkly dress for a pair of baggy red tracksuit bottoms, an oversized man's shirt and kicking off her heels for a pair of Crocs, the transmutation was completed with a severe centre parting and a smear of lurid red 'listik'.

She began a 70-minute audience with the word-managing, pitch-imperfect, egotist whose bizarre renditions of pop hits and show tunes, campaign against 'porn' (that is basically an-

ythng even vaguely sexual) and rants against her 'haters' has won her around two and a half a million subscribers on YouTube.

There was some great political comedy. Miranda's alternative to twerking has to be seen to be believed and her recreation of her own birth, singing Lady Gaga's Born This Way, was a hoot.

As she told us, she was always famous, it's just that everyone else knows it now.

The perils of audience participation were apparent when one male fan looked like taking rudeness out of her comfort zone during a pretend dating scene but Miranda stayed psycho-soapish to keep control.

Best of all was when she read out hate posts from internet trolls dim enough to think Miranda is for real. Some of them sounded way more crazy than Ballinger's comic creation.

Leon Burakowski

LB

True Faith as Paloma defied doc

Paloma Faith, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

FORTY eight hours before this gig the Hackney soul singer had been in hospital on a drip but defied doctor's advice to continue her tour.

Any fears that a below par performance would result were allayed by a blistering Trouble With My Baby and Paloma the trouper, dressed in a thigh high black dress with cameo details, took her iconic funky diva pose on top of the piano.

Each album for Paloma is a new start and it was her third and latest album A Perfect Contradiction that yielded the majority of her 90 minute set, opening with Take Me. There were no songs from her debut and only Picking Up The Pieces from her second.

A stunning version of River Deep Mountain High was performed in tribute to her inspiration Tina Turner. If Miss Faith could be this good when unwell, in a seated venue on a Monday night, next Saturday's gig at a standing room only Wolverhampton Civic should be a stormer.

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X-rated Cheryl is still Only Human

Reviews by Leon Burakowski

CHERYL has changed her surname so many times that it has apparently been dropped now that she has released her fourth album, *Only Human* (Polydor).

Never the strongest singer in Girls Aloud, her solo material has seldom lived up to her celebrity but she is getting things mostly right on *Only Human*, despite courting controversy with her liberal use of the f-word. We know she can do up-tempo dance-pop, I Don't (xxxxing) Care, the quirky Crazy Stupid Love (with guest Tinie Tempah) and frantic Firecracker (on the deluxe album) prove that. But this time she actually achieves a decent ballad, the admittedly vocodered, title track.

Blending Philadelphia smooth disco with Bacharach-like pop sophistication, **Rumer** returns with an album of new material that lives up to the promise of her million-selling debut *Seasons of the Soul. Into Colour* (Atlantic Records), featuring the 70s sounding *Dangerous*, is a mellow album and well-crafted to appeal to fans of The Carpenters and Carly Simon.

Jessie J has finally broken big in America with Bang Bang, helped by guest Nicki Minaj. It is a stand-out track on her third album *Sweet Talker* (Lava) on which state-side R&B dominates her Essex girl pop. Other highlights include retro 80s club groove Seal Me With A Kiss (featuring De La Soul) and Burnin' Up. Lyrically Jessie seems obsessed with people who don't like her music. She's in concert at Birmingham O2 Academy on January 27.

American rock veteran singer-songwriter **Jackson Browne** takes a weary look at the world and gently urges defiance to the friends of fracking and



Fourth album from singer and X Factor judge Cheryl Fernandez-Versini

firearms on his 14th album *Standing In The Breach* (Inside Recordings). He is in concert at Birmingham Symphony Hall on Monday, November 17.

Edwin Starr was, until his death in 2003, the UK's favourite soul man thanks to his decision to leave the US to pursue his career in Britain, basing himself near Birmingham. His 1971 funk and soul album *Involved* has been remastered and reissued on CD by BBR. It includes his best known song, War, plus covers including Sly Stone's Stand and George Harrison's My Sweet Lord. The package includes 14 bonus tracks. Or experience Motown's rawest voice on the remastered reissue 1968 debut *Soul Master* including hits Agent Double-O-Soul, Stop Her On Sight, Headline News.



After a slow start, silky smooth-voiced Rumer has returned

The bonus tracks include his Northern Soul classic Back Street. There are lots of Northern Soul compilations but if you want to dig a little deeper check out *Dancing By Myself: Lost In Northern Soul* for a plethora of vintage stompers. Raiding 60s soul vaults this 22-track CD from Cherry Red's Righteous label uncovers gems such as The Five Royales' Catch That Teardrop and I Need You by the Van Dellos. But Miss orangatang by Lincoln Chase should probably have remained buried.

If 70s soul is your thang, the lush duets of Motown acts **Thelma Houston and Jerry Butler** on Soul Music Records two-for-one CD reissue, **Thelma & Jerry** and **Two To One** (expanded edition) in one soulful package worth seeking out. A classy partnership.

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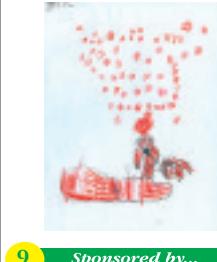


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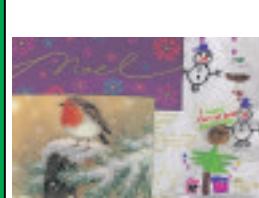


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Express & Star

Feel the noize at Slade convention

A CONVENTION for fans of Black Country rock legends Slade is being held in Bilston next spring.

Music venue The Robin 2 and the Slade Fan Club are staging the event on April 25 to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the band's cult movie *Slade In Flame*.

The convention, which will include a showing of the film, will run from noon with an evening performance by tribute band Slycle.

Slade memorabilia will be on sale and there will also be a quiz and showing of rare videos of the band, which was led in its heyday by Noddy Holder.

All day tickets are £14 in advance and £15 on the day. Evening only is £9 in advance and £10 on the door.

Comic is top of charity variety bill

BLACK Country comic Doug Parker is the headliner at a charity variety show later this month.

BBC Radio WM's Jenny Wilkes is the guest compere at the Prince of Wales Centre in Cannock for the fundraiser on Tuesday, November 25.

It starts at 7.30pm and is in aid of the Black Country branch of the MS Society, one of the Mayor of Walsall Councillor Pete Smith's nominated charities.

Vocalists Nick De Jarn and Nicole will also perform.

Tickets are £10.50 and available from the Church Street theatre's box office on 01543 578762.

Liberty and death theme for opera season with passion

ONE of the world's most popular and passionate operas, Bizet's *Carmen*, is brought by Welsh National Opera to Birmingham Hippodrome next week.

Staged on Wednesday and Thursday, the story of a free spirit who would rather die than surrender her liberty will be conducted by James Southall.

By Leon Burakowski

former BBC Radio 3 New Generation Artist Christine Rice will sing the role of Amaltea.

Rossini's William Tell, being staged on November 22, is an epic political and romantic work. Rossini's last opera, William Tell is the story of the Swiss struggle for independence against Austria. The role of William Tell will be sung by David Kempster.

As well as uplifting music, William Tell will feature striking sets designed by Raimund Bauer, spectacular 19th century costumes designed by Marie-Jeanne Leccia and lavish dance sequences choreographed by Amir Hosseinpour.

The dream-like Slava's Snowshow continues at the Hippodrome until Sunday.

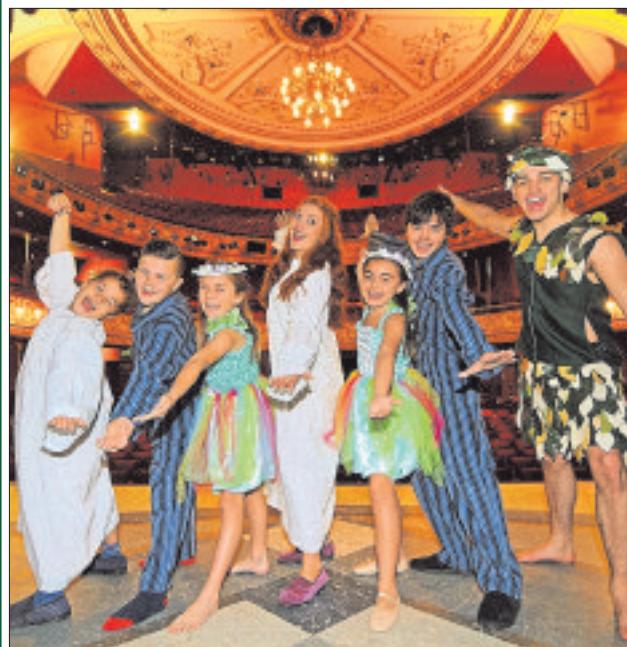
Poof cues replace swords in Frantic Assembly's modern, highly physical updating of Shakespeare's Othello at Birmingham Rep tonight (Thursday) to Saturday.

Moses

Two new productions, Rossini's William Tell and Moses in Egypt, will explore the liberty of nations, while Carmen examines what it means to be a free woman.

A grand Biblical epic composed in Naples, Moses in Egypt was one of Rossini's early operas. This new production, staged on November 21, examines the Exodus story using powerful music and costumes inspired by the vibrant colours of artist Marc Chagall.

Hungarian bass-baritone Miklós Sebestyén will sing the role of Moses with Barry Banks singing the role of Aronne. Mezzo Soprano and



Pan's people — Liam Hewitt, Ryan Harris, Maya Bowles, Abii Studwicke, Darci Dobson, Alex Clarke and Maison Kelley as the boy who could fly

Pan ready for flight of fancy

PETER Pan is making a flying visit to Wolverhampton Grand Theatre.

Bilston Operatic Society is preparing for its musical version of JM Barrie's much-loved tale of the boy who never grew up and his adventures in Neverland, facing Captain Hook and his crew of scurvy pirates.

Young actors will be fitted for a flying harness and have been learning moves on a flying rig that will be replicated for the show next week at the Lichfield Street venue.

The cast includes Abii Studwicke and Lucy Follows as Wendy, Alex Clarke and Ryan Harris as John, Liam Hewitt and Tom Horton as Michael, and Darci Dobson and Maya Bowles as Tinkerbell. In the title role, flying across the stage will be Maisie Kelley.

Peter Pan runs from Tuesday to Saturday. Call the box office on 01902 429212 or go online to www.grandtheatre.co.uk

Hugh and Hazel are joining forces

TWO stars from the New Wave era are joining forces at Bilston venue The Robin 2 later this month.

Former frontman of The Stranglers Hugh Cornwell will be bringing his band for a joint concert with singer Hazel O'Connor, kicking off their tour at the Mount Pleasant venue on Tuesday, November 25.

Each will perform their own set, Cornwell performing Stranglers classics plus music from his latest album *Totem And Taboo*. O'Connor also has a new album, *Here She Comes*, and will play hits from the movie *Breaking Glass* including the classic *Will You*. She is joined by former Belle Stars saxophonist Clare Hirst. Tickets are £20 advance or £22 on the night. Call 01902 401211.

Singer is bringing blues back home

FORMER Black Country schoolgirl turned international blues star Joanne Shaw Taylor will be back in the West Midlands on Saturday.

Guitarist Joanne, who played her first gig as a 15-year-old at the original Robin R'n'B Club in Brierley Hill, will be performing at Birmingham Town Hall. She was voted Best British Female Vocalist at the British Blues Awards in 2010 and 2011.

Joanne, who has homes in Birmingham and Detroit, will perform songs from new album *The Dirty Truth* at the concert. Support from Bernie Marsden. Tickets are priced £17.50.

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CHOICE



Jack Donnelly

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** James Martin: Home Comforts. **12.00** BBC News: Weather. **12.10** Football Focus. **12.50** Saturday Sportsday. **1.00** Rugby League: Four Nations Final Highlights. **2.00** Live International Rugby Union: Wales v Fiji (Kick-off 2.30pm). **3.00** Children in Need: The Best Bits. **5.50** BBO: News; Regional News; Weather.

6.10 Pointless Celebrities. Alexander Armstrong invites TV stars Vanessa Feltz, Penny Smith, Kriss Akabusi, Roger Black, Keith Chegwin, Andrew Castle, Louie Spence and Carol McGiffin to compete.

7.00 Strictly Come Dancing. Tess Daly, Claudia Winkleman and the Strictly entourage head to Blackpool's world-famous Tower Ballroom, the spiritual home of dancing, for this week's edition. Over the years its elegant surroundings have been host to thousands of amateur and professional dancers – and tonight the tradition continues as the nine celebrity hoopers and their partners battle to get their names at the top of the leaderboard and avoid the fate of last week's eliminated couple. As they perform a range of routines, they're hoping to impress the judges: Len Goodman, Bruno Tonioli, Craig Revel Horwood and Darcie Bussell, but they'll also need viewers' votes to keep them out of tomorrow's dreaded dance-off.

8.30 Atlantis. New series. The fantasy drama is back and much has changed in the year since the death of King Minos. His daughter Ariadne is on the throne and at war with her former stepmother Pasiphae in a bloody and brutal battle for power. As the kingdom stands on the brink of collapse, there is only one person the young queen dare turn to for help – Jason. The time has come for the warrior to fulfil his destiny. Jack Donnelly stars, with Mark Addy, Aiysha Hart, Sarah Parish, Vincent Regan, Amy Manson, Peter De Jersey, Josef Altin, Thomas Coombes, Steven Cree, Ian Drysdale and Robert Emms.

BBC2

6.05 Film: My Forbidden Past. (1951) **7.15** Rugby League: Four Nations. **10.00** The Life of Birds. **10.50** Animal Park. **(R) 11.20** Coast. **12.00** Rick Stein's Far Eastern Odyssey. **(R) 1.00** Escape to the Country. **(R) 2.00** Live tennis: ATP World Tour Finals. The opening singles semi-final at 1.02 in London. **5.00** Live International Rugby Union: Scotland v New Zealand (Kick-off 5.30pm).

7.30 Flieg It! Trade Secrets. Paul Martin and the team give advice on collecting items that connoisseurs seek or events, and Michael Baggett dips out a special set of paper money.

8.00 Perry and Croft: Made in Britain. Perry and Croft return with a new series of comedy writing duo David Croft and Jimmy Perry. Their work can be viewed as unique chronicle of the UK in the 20th century.

8.30 Dad's Army. Mainwaring and the platoon are asked to provide a guard of honour for a train carrying George VI passing through Walmington-on-Sea, but another locomotive confounds their plans. (R)

9.00 QI XL. The Rev Richard Coles, Sarah Millican, David Mitchell and Alan Davies answer questions about jobs.

9.45 War of Words: Soldier-Poets of the Somme. The Battle of the Somme in 1916 is one of the most well-known battles of the First World War, remembered for its bloodshed and its limited territorial gains, and more writers and poets fought in it than in any other battle in history. Michael Sheen narrates this documentary, which details the experiences of authors including Siegfried Sassoon, Robert Graves, David Jones, Isaac Rosenberg and JRR Tolkien, looking at how their writing was informed and transformed by the conflict. The film also features archive footage, documentary accounts of surviving soldiers and battalion war diaries to reconnect the literature to the events and landscape that inspired it.

10.05 National Lottery Live. Gaby Roslin is joined by singer Donny Osmond as she reveals the numbers for the Lotto and Thunderball draws.

10.15 BBC News: Weather.

10.35 Mrs Brown's Boys. Brendan O'Carroll stars. (R)

11.05 Jack Whitehall: Live: National Lottery Update.

12.05 EastEnders. (R) **1.35** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.40** BBC News.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. **6.25** Pat & Stan. **(R) 6.35** Pat & Stan. **(R) 6.40** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. **(R) 6.50** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. **(R) 7.05** Cannimals. **(R) 7.10** Cannimals. **(R) 7.20** Signed Stories: Share a Story. **(R) 7.25** Sooty. **(R) 7.35** Mr Bean: The Animation Series. **(R) 7.50** Meet the Monsters. **(R) 8.15** Horrid Henry. **8.30** The Munch Box. **9.25** The Hungry Sailors. **(R) 10.25** Murder, She Wrote. **(R) 11.20** ITV News: Weather. **11.30** Storage Hoarders. **(R) 12.30** Surprise Surprise. **(R) 1.30** Faith in the Future. **(R) 2.00** Doc Martin. **(R) 3.05** Keep It in the Family. **(R) 4.05** Regional Programme: Weather. **4.30** Live International Football. England v Slovenia (Kick-off 5.00pm).

7.15 The Chase: Celebrity Special. Radio 2 DJ Jo Whiley, Bendinor barman Jake Canuso, Law & Order: UK's Georgia Taylor and comedian Marcus Brigstocke compete to win thousands of pounds for charity by taking on one of the show's resident trivia experts in a test of their general knowledge. However, they must work as a team to build their prize pot and stay one step ahead of the Chaser.

8.15 The X Factor. The remaining acts get into the swing of things for the return of Big Band week. Battling to win praise from the judges and viewers' votes, they'll be hoping to sound better than ever with the support of live musicians, as they take on old classics and give modern pop songs a jazz twist. Dermot O'Leary provides a friendly face on stage as Simon Cowell, Cheryl Fernandez-Versini, Mel B and Louis Walsh give their verdicts.

9.55 The Jonathan Ross Show. The host chats to actress Carey Mulligan, chef Gordon Ramsay, opera singer Katherine Jenkins, and comedy legend Michael Palin. Music comes courtesy of rock band Kasabian.

10.55 ITV News: Weather.

11.10 International Football Highlights. England v Slovakia. Action from the Euro 2016 Group E qualifier at Wembley Stadium, where the hosts were looking to secure a fourth successive victory.

11.15 ITOTP2. Matt Radcliffe introduces and interviews celebrities by Fine Young Cannibals, Red Hot Chili Peppers, Kriss Kross, Elvis Costello, Luisa Sobral and Cyndi Lauper. (R)

12.15 Film: Don't Tease. (2009) **1.45** Film: Undertow. (2009) **3.20** This Is BBC Two.

CHANNEL 4

CHANNEL 5

6.05 NFL: Rush Zone. **6.30** Trans World Sport. **7.25** River Rat Race Stockton. **7.55** The Morning Line. **9.00** Weekend Kitchen. **10.00** Frasier. **(R) 10.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. **(R) 11.00** The Big Bang Theory. **11.30** The Big Bang Theory. **12.00** The Simpsons. **(R) 12.30** Marvel Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D. **(R) 1.30** Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Cheltenham and Wetherby. **4.00** Come Dine with Me. **(R) 5.00** Come Dine with Me. **(R) 5.35** Come Dine with Me. (R)

6.00 Come Dine with Me. All-American mother Natascha Ingham hosts the final dinner party from Lincolnshire, hoping to impress her guests with a dish entitled "fall off your horse black bottom pie". (R)

6.35 Channel 4 News.

7.05 Speed with Guy Martin. The motorcycle racer makes a bold attempt to set a world speed record for a hovercraft, knowing that at speeds of more than 86mph, even the most experienced pilots can lose control. (R)

8.00 Walking Through History: Nazi Occupation – Channel Islands. Tony Robinson heads to Guernsey and Jersey to tell the story of the islands' surrender to the Nazis during the Second World War. In Guernsey, he hears of the first bombing raid that heralded the German troops' arrival and sees the spot where the first-ever British commando landed in secret, only to see the planned revenge raid fail spectacularly. A ferry then takes him on to Jersey, where he finds almost all of its beaches have a bunker or a machine gun post left over from the conflict.

9.00 It Was Alright in the 1970s. Part one of two. Matt Lucas narrates a look back at the decade's TV shows, beginning with themes of pleasure and leisure, including outragous adult jokes in pre-watershed sitcoms.

10.00 Film: Chronicle. (2012) Premiere. The movie follows a drifter with superhuman abilities, but one of them is corrupted by his new power. Sci-fi thriller, starring Dane DeHaan and Michael B Jordan.

11.40 Film: Max Payne. (2008) Action thriller, starring Morgan Freeman.

1.30 Film: Shell. (2012) **3.05** Hollywoods. **(R) 5.15** Location, Location, Location. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **9.15** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **9.50** Access. **9.55** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. **(R) 10.55** Alex Polizzi's Secret Italy. **(R) 11.55** Film: The Christmas Heart. (2012) Drama, starring Teri Polo. **1.40** Film: Help for Christmas. (2010) Fantasy, stars Jennifer Garner. **3.20** Film: Christmas Bul. (2010) **3.20** Film: Christmas comedy, starring Ashley Scott and AJ Buckley. **5.10** Film: A Grandpa for Christmas. (2007) Family comedy, starring Ernest Borgnine. **6.55** 5 News Weekend.

7.00 Film: Battle of Britain. (1969) In 1940, Britain faces a series of aerial attacks against Britain to gain control of the skies ahead of a planned land invasion. Under the leadership of Air Chief Marshal Hugh Dowding, the RAF mounts a determined defence over the summer and autumn, despite being heavily outnumbered and forced to match inexperienced pilots against German veterans. Second World War drama, starring Laurence Olivier, Michael Caine, Robert Shaw, Christopher Plummer, Harry Andrews, Trevor Howard and Curt Jurgens. Edited for violence and language.

9.35 Film: The Wild Geese. (1978) A corporation hoping to bring about the downfall of an African dictator hires a group of British mercenaries to free a political prisoner dangerous to the regime. However, when the company changes its mind, the geese become a deadly tyrant, the soldiers and the man they have saved are left surrounded by hostile military forces with no escape route. Action adventure, starring Richard Burton, Roger Moore, Richard Harris and Hardy Kruger.

12.15 Gotham. Gordon and Bullock search for a man distributing vials of a drug that makes users super-strong, while Bruce tries to establish Wayne Enterprises' role in the Arkham project. **(R) 1.10** SuperCasino. Viewers get the chance to take part in live interactive gaming, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team. **3.10** The Gadget Show. Jon Bentley examines the best deals available for home TV, phone and broadband, and Jason Bradbury tests an underwater jetpack in one of the world's deepest swimming pools. **(R) 4.00** House Doctor. A doctor's house in Crayke Heath West Midlands. **(R) 4.25** Make It Big. **(R) 5.15** Angels of Jarni. **(R) 5.40** Roarv the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three

7.00 World's Craziest Fools. **7.30** International Rugby Union. **8.30** Top Gear. **9.15** Sherlock. **10.50** Family Guy. **12.15** Life Is Beautiful. **1.55** The Revolution Will Be Televised. **2.25** Sweat the Small Stuff. **2.55** Snow, Sex and Suspicious Parents. **3.55** Close.

BBC Four

7.00 Swarm: Nature's Incredible Invasions. **8.00** The Riviera: A History in Pictures. **9.00** Inspector Montalbano. **10.35** Kratokata Revealed. **11.25** Swarm: Nature's Incredible Invasions. **12.25** Guitar Heroes at the BBC. **1.25** Deep Purple - Made in Japan. **2.25** Sounds of the Eighties. **3.00** The Riviera: A History in Pictures. **4.00** Close.

ITV2

11.15 You've Been Framed! **12.15** Film: Twister (1996). **2.30** I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here Now!: Trials and Tribulations. **3.35** I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here Now!: Best of the Bush. **4.35** I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here Now!: Crown Jewels. **5.45** Film: Despicable Me (2010). **7.40** Film: Dungeons and Dragons (2000) **9.55** The Xtra Factor. **1.10** The Xtra Factor. **2.10** The X Factor 2.50. **4.50** The X Factor 2.50. **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen.

ITV4

11.00 Film: Columbo: Murder with Too Many Doubts. (2000) **2.55** A Touch of Frost. **4.55** Agatha Christie's Marple. **7.00** Rosemary & Thyme. **8.00** Crime. **9.00** Midsummers Murders. **11.00** A Touch of Frost. **12.45** Bomb Girls. **1.30** World Kitchen. **1.55** Movies Now. **2.45** ITV3 Nightscreen. **2.30** Teleshopping.

E4

11.00 Meliss & Joey. (2009) **1.00** Made in Chelsea. **2.00** Film: Space Chimps. **2008**. **3.45** Rudolph! The Short Story. **4.00** Melissa & Joey. **5.00** How I Met Your Mother. **6.00** The Big Bang Theory. **9.00** Film: Love & Other Drugs. **2010**. **11.15** Film: The Social Network. **1.20** The Devil Wears Prada. **2.20** The Devil Wears Prada. **3.20** The Devil Wears Prada. **4.20** The Devil Wears Prada. **5.20** The Devil Wears Prada. **6.20** The Devil Wears Prada. **7.20** The Devil Wears Prada. **8.20** The Devil Wears Prada. **9.20** The Devil Wears Prada. **10.20** The Devil Wears Prada. **11.20** The Devil Wears Prada. **12.20** The Devil Wears Prada. **1.20** The Devil Wears Prada. **2.20** The Devil Wears Prada. **3.20** The Devil Wears Prada. **4.20** The Devil Wears Prada. **5.20** The Devil Wears Prada. **6.20** The Devil Wears Prada. **7.20** The Devil Wears Prada. **8.20** The Devil Wears Prada. **9.20** The Devil Wears Prada. **10.20** The Devil Wears Prada. **11.20** The Devil Wears Prada. **12.20** The Devil Wears Prada. **1.20** The Devil Wears Prada. **2.20** 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CHOICE

Ant and Dec

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **12.00** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Escape to the Country. (R) **1.45** Gareth's All Star Choir. (R) **3.45** Points of Praise. **4.45** Life Story. (R) **5.45** BBC News; Regional News; Weather. **6.15** **Countryfile**. Ellie Harrison visits Acton Scott, a working farm situated in the ways of the past, to try her hand at some of the traditional skills people still practise today, including blacksmithing and making a cob oven with a group of children as they learn this skill. She also looks back through the **Countryfile** archive for other items about the crafts of the countryside, including Matt Baker learning about wheelwrighting and Helen Skelton making rakes. **7.15** **Strictly Come Dancing: The Residuals**. Tess Daly and Claudia Winkleman are at Blackpool Tower Ballroom to reveal which pairs are in the dance-off, with performances by Shirley Bassey and McBusted. **8.00** **Film: War Horse**. (2011) Premiere. A farmer's son forms a close bond with a horse he trains, but is forced to give the animal up when it is sold to the British army during the First World War. The horse passes through various owners on both sides as he travels across the battlefields of France, while the boy refuses to give up on being reunited. Steven Spielberg's drama based on Michael Morpurgo's book, starring Jeremy Irons and Tom Hiddleston. **10.15** **BBC News**; Regional News; Weather. **10.45** **Michael McIntyre's Showtime**. Stand-up comedy performed at the O2 in London during his 10-night run in 2012, featuring stories about a horrific trip to the dentist and watching his wife get undressed. (R) **11.45** **The Apprentice**. The entrepreneurs devise and sell their own board games, with one team coming up with a globetrotting game for the family and the other choosing something a little more risqué. (R) **12.45** **Fifth**: Repo Chick. (2009) **2.10** Weather for the Week Ahead. **2.15** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 Life in a Cottage Garden with Carol Klein. (R) **6.30** Great British Garden Revival. (R) **7.30** Countryfile. **8.40** Glorious Gardens from Above. (R) **9.30** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.00** Jamie Martin: Home Comforts. (R) **11.45** Jamie Martin: Home Comforts. (R) **12.30** Rio Stein: Far Eastern Odyssey. **1.30** International Rugby Union. **2.25** Film: Up Periscope. (1959) **4.15** Glorious Gardens from Above. (R) **5.00** Fog It! **6.00** Live Tennis: ATP World Tour Finale. Coverage of the singles final of the season-ending competition from the O2 in London, where Novak Djokovic has been victorious for the last two years. Coverage continues on BBC3. **7.00** **Human Universe**. Professor Brian Cox examines what the future holds for humanity, heading to Florida to learn about efforts to protect Earth from potential catastrophic events. Last in the series. (R) **8.00** **The Mekong River with Sue Perkins**. The comedienne witnesses how deforestation and wildlife crime are stripping Cambodia of its last wild places, and spends time with the women of the tribe. **9.00** **World's Greatest Food Markets**. New series. Billingsgate fish merchant Roger Barton visits food markets around the globe, beginning at the New Fulton Fish Market in the Bronx, New York City. **10.00** **Russell Howard's Good News**. The comedian offers his perspective on stories dominating the media, whether on television, online or in print, and he is joined by a guest with an amazing tale to tell. (R) **10.30** **The Wrong Mans**. A case of mistaken identity couples two council employees into the middle of a deadly criminal conspiracy. Comedy thriller, with James Corden and Matthew Baynton. (R) **11.00** **The Wrong Mans**. Sam and Phil try to rescue Mr Stevens' wife. (R) **11.30** **Film: Requiemation**. (1997) A psychopathic hitman traumatised by his return to duty during the First World War treats poet Siegfried Sassoon, Drama, starring Jonathan Pryce. **1.20** **Sig Zone**; **Countryfile**. (R) **2.35** Holby City. (R) **3.35** This is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. **6.25** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.35** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.40** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **7.05** Canimals. (R) **7.10** Camanilla. (R) **7.20** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.25** Mr Ben: The Animated Series. (R) **7.50** Ultimate Spider-Man. **8.15** Horrid Henry. **8.30** Big Time Rush. **9.00** The Aquabats! Super Show! (R) **9.25** Dickinson's Real Deal. (R) **10.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.25** ITV News; Weather. **11.35** Film: Carry On Cowboy. (1966) **1.25** All Star Family Fortunes. (R) **2.10** The Unforgettable Benny Hill. (R) **2.50** The X Factor. (R) **4.25** DownTown Abbey. (R) **6.00** **You've Been Framed!** Harry Hill reveals what David Cameron gets up to behind the bins at Chequers, and why Lorraine Kelly is now testing Ross King's thongs. (R) **6.30** **Regional Programme**; Weather. **6.45** ITV News; Weather. **7.00** **Keep It in the Family**. Coronation Street stars Kym Marsh, Samia Ghadie, Antony Cotton, Brooke Vincent, Mikey North and Bruno Langley help contestants win big prizes. Bradley Walsh hosts. **8.00** **The X Factor Results**. Dermot O'Leary reveals who is safe and who has scored the lowest number of votes. **9.00** **I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here!** New series. A fresh batch of famous faces wave goodbye to their lives of luxury and set up camp in the Australian wilderness for up to three weeks, battling bugs and Bush Tucker Trials, rations and rain, and heat and hunger, all in the name of entertainment. As ever, there are plenty of rumours about this year's line-up, with soon-to-be former Hollyoaks star Gemma Merna, Geordie Shore's Vicky Pattison and Katie Price's cage-fighting ex Alex Reid among those tipped to be competing for the jungle crown. Ant and Dec follow the daily drama.

CHANNEL 4

6.10 **NFL: The American Football Show**. (R) **7.05** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **7.30** **How I Met Your Mother**. (R) **7.55** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.25** Frasier. (R) **8.55** Jamie's Comfort Food. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** **The Big Bang Theory**. **12.55** The Big Bang Theory. **1.20** **Channel 4 Racing**. (R) **2.00** **Motorcycle Grand Prix**. (R) **7.25** **Motorcycle Grand Prix**. (R) **7.45** **Paw Patrol**. **7.45** Milkshake! Bop Pop (R) **7.50** Little Princess. (R) **8.05** **The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky**. (R) **8.20** Wanda and the Alien. **8.35** Zack and Quack. **8.50** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.05** Jelly Jamm. (R) **9.20** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **9.55** Access. (R) **10.05** Police Interceptors. (R) **11.10** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.10** Film: The Good Witch's Charm. (2012) Drama sequel, starring Catherine Bell. **1.55** Film: A Star for Christmas. (2012) Festive drama, starring Briana Evigan. **3.40** Film: Farewell Mr Kringle. (2010) Christmas drama, with Christine Taylor. **5.25** Film: Dumb and Dumber. (1994) Comedy, starring Jim Carrey and Jeff Daniels. **7.30** **5 News Weekend**. **7.40** **Film: Superman II**. (1980) The Man of Steel meets his match in the form of three fugitive villains from his home planet of Krypton. Flying down to Earth, the super-powered trio unleash a reign of terror as a battle take over the world. **8.15** I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here! Now! **11.45** **Education**. Joy Box: Reen Hall. **12.45** **Five**: Five Against One. **1.30** **Dads**. **1.55** **The Vampire Diaries**. **4.40** **Felicity**. **5.40** **ITV2 Nightscreen**.

CHANNEL 5

6.00 **Milkshake!**: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **6.30** Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) **6.35** Seaside Antics. **6.40** **The Mr Men Show**. (R) **6.55** Chloe's Closet. (R) **7.05** **Our Little White Van**. (R) **7.10** **Mr Potato Head**. (R) **7.25** **Makeover for Noddy**. (R) **7.35** Paw Patrol. **7.45** Milkshake! Bop Pop (R) **7.50** Little Princess. (R) **8.05** **The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky**. (R) **8.20** Wanda and the Alien. **8.35** Zack and Quack. **8.50** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.05** Jelly Jamm. (R) **9.20** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **9.55** Access. (R) **10.05** Police Interceptors. (R) **11.10** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.10** Film: The Good Witch's Charm. (2012) Drama sequel, starring Catherine Bell. **1.55** Film: A Star for Christmas. (2012) Festive drama, starring Briana Evigan. **3.40** Film: Farewell Mr Kringle. (2010) Christmas drama, with Christine Taylor. **5.25** Film: Dumb and Dumber. (1994) Comedy, starring Jim Carrey and Jeff Daniels. **7.30** **5 News Weekend**. **7.40** **Film: Superman II**. (1980) The Man of Steel meets his match in the form of three fugitive villains from his home planet of Krypton. Flying down to Earth, the super-powered trio unleash a reign of terror as a battle take over the world. **8.15** I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here! Now! **11.45** **Education**. Joy Box: Reen Hall. **12.45** **Five**: Five Against One. **1.30** **Dads**. **1.55** **The Vampire Diaries**. **4.40** **Felicity**. **5.40** **ITV2 Nightscreen**.

DIGITAL

BBC Three **7.00** Live Tennis: ATP World Tour Finals. The singles final at the O2 in London. **9.00** Snow, Sex and Suspicious Parents. **10.00** Family Guy. **10.45** Life Is Tough. **11.55** Film: Face/Off (1997) **1.25** Sweet the Small Stuff. **1.55** People Like Us. **2.55** The Revolution Will Be Televised. **3.25** Life Is Tough. **3.55** Close. **BBC Four** **7.00** **The Great War**. **7.40** Britain's Wild Places: The Sheep Beside the Seaside. **8.00** Congo Calling: An African Orchestra in Britain. **9.00** Rosetta: A Star at Night. **Special 10.00** Pop Go the Sixties. **10.15** Mark Lawson Talks to Michael Morpurgo. **11.15** Johnny Cash: The Man, His World. **His Music**. **12.15** Bob Harris: My Nashville. **1.15** Brad Paisley and Friends. **2.15** John Denver at Wembly 2002. **2.50** Congo Calling: An African Orchestra in Britain. **3.30** Close. **ITV2** **11.50** The X Factor. **1.25** The Xtra Factor. **2.30** **Film: Free Willy 2: The Adventure Home** (1995) **4.55** Film: King Kong (2005) **8.00** **Scorpion**. **9.00** The Xtra Factor. **10.00** You've Been Framed! **10.30** McBusted. **11.00** **Mark Lawson Talks to Michael Morpurgo**. **11.15** Johnny Cash: The Man, His World. **His Music**. **12.15** Bob Harris: My Nashville. **1.15** Brad Paisley and Friends. **2.15** John Denver at Wembly 2002. **2.50** Congo Calling: An African Orchestra in Britain. **3.30** Close. **ITV3** **11.55** Inspector Morse. **2.00** Rosemary & Thyme. **3.00** Film: George and Mildred: The Movie (1980) **4.55** Film: Columbus: Any Port in a Storm (1976) **5.55** Inspector Morse. **9.00** **Lewis**. **11.15** William and Mary. **1.05** **Myfair Lady**. **2.00** Judge Judy. **2.45** **World War II**. **3.10** **ITV3 Nightscreen**. **3.40** **Emmerdale**. **4.15** **World Rally Championship Highlights**. **12.00** **Film: Rooster Cop** (1973) **2.10** **Film: The War Wagon** (1967) **4.15** **Film: Cheyenne Autumn** (1964) **7.25** **International Football**. **8.00** **Football**. **10.30** **International Football Highlights**. **12.00** **Life of Ryan**. **Caretaker Manager**. **1.00** **River Monsters**. **2.00** **Jean-Claude Van Damme: Behind Closed Doors**. **3.00** **Teleloving**. **E4** **12.30** **Mad in Chelsea**. **1.30** **Film: A Turtle's Tale: Sammy's Adventures** (2010) **3.15** **Bubblegum Tuba Shorts** **3.30** **Brooklyn Nine-Nine**. **4.30** **The Big Bang Theory**. **5.00** **Film: Avatar** (2009) **11.10** **The Inbetweeners**. **12.15** **Drifters**. **12.50** **Bad Robots**. **1.25** **Rules of Engagement**. **2.25** **The Cleveland Show**. **3.35** **How to Get Away with Murder**. **4.25** **Make It Big**. (R) **5.15** **Angels of Jarm**. (R) **5.40** **Roary the Racing Car**. (R)

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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY

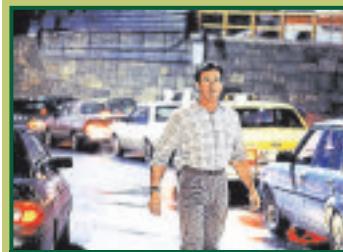
Setup, Channel 5, 10.55pm

A criminal takes part in a profitable diamond heist, only to be betrayed by his partner in crime who makes off with the loot. The aggrieved thief swears revenge on his former friend, and seeks the aid of a powerful Mob boss in getting revenge and taking back his ill-gotten gains. Crime thriller, with Bruce Willis, Curtis "50 Cent" Jackson and Ryan Phillippe. (2011)

TUESDAY

The Painted Veil, BBC1, 11.50pm

An English doctor's wife in 1920s China has an affair with a politician. When her husband finds out, he plots revenge by forcing her to accompany him on a mercy mission to a remote disease-ravaged village – but the hardship of their journey gives them a new perspective on their relationship. Period drama based on W Somerset Maugham's novel, starring Edward Norton, Naomi Watts, Liev Schreiber and Toby Jones. (2006)



Daylight, Friday, ITV, 11.15pm

WEDNESDAY

Obsessed, BBC1, 11.35pm

An executive with a successful job and a happy family life finds his world crumbling around him when a temporary worker is assigned to his office. The new arrival becomes desperately fixated on him, going to desperate lengths to seduce him. When he rejects her, he and his wife find their lives in danger. Thriller, starring Idris Elba and Beyoncé Knowles. (2009)

THURSDAY

Trading Christmas, Channel 5, 3.15pm

Lonely widow Emily and frustrated writer Charles arrange to swap houses for the Christmas holidays, so she can visit her daughter and he can get some peace and quiet to work. However, both find themselves having unexpected romances when his brother and her friend make surprise visits and find the wrong person at home. Comedy, starring Faith Ford. (2011)

FRIDAY

Daylight, ITV, 11.15pm

A devastating explosion in the New Jersey Tunnel causes a horrific pile-up, trapping a group of motorists underground. A former emergency worker witnesses the blast and heads in to guide the handful of survivors to safety before the waters of the Hudson river above them break through and flood the tunnel. Disaster movie, starring Sylvester Stallone. (1996)

PICK OF THE WEEK

Family matters to James as the search continues

James Nesbitt is hands down one of the best actors on television and has been for a while now.

Everything he puts his name to oozes quality and he has a range that takes some beating.

At a time when the idea of another legal, medical or police procedural drama makes us yawn, it can't be easy picking a credible role, but simply by being in The Missing, Nesbitt has made it fantastic television.

Of course, this particular drama is helped along no end by the fact that Nesbitt is joined by such a top-drawer cast, but Frances O'Connor, who plays Emily Hughes in the hard-hitting drama, couldn't speak more highly of her co-star.

She explains: "I love acting with Jimmy because he just brings it! Every time you do a scene, he steps up and really gives it a hundred per cent for you. I love all the choices he makes; he's great. We've had to do some really tricky scenes but he's been very supportive."

O'Connor isn't exaggerating when

she talks of those tricky scenes. With such a sensitive subject matter – a little boy going missing while on holiday in France – it's little wonder the nation has taken this eight-part drama into their hearts, and O'Connor didn't need much time to think about signing up to the part.

"I just loved these scripts – I thought they were brilliant," she explains. "I was sent two and wanted to do more because they're just such great page-turners. The other great thing about the scripts is that the dialogue is so real and psychologically so true. So when you're acting, you feel it's really rock solid in terms of character and it's very easy to believe in the story."

She continues: "Because I'm a mother, I instantly related to the story. I did a bit of research about what it's like for people whose children have gone missing but really I just had to use my imagination. It's every parent's worst nightmare so I found it pretty easy to access the emotions for it."

The actress seems to be drawn to complex, thought-provoking dramas

– when we last saw her in Mr Selfridge, her character Rose had announced she was dying – but she insists that the tricky subject areas are all brilliantly dealt with here thanks to the writing.

She says of The Missing: "The storytelling is really clever and really sharp which you can feel when you're playing it. There are multiple strands to the story which are very cleverly interwoven."

We reach the halfway mark tonight, and Oliver's disappearance continues to take its toll on James and Frances' characters. As we pay a visit to 2006, the case is thrown into disarray by a murder, and Tony (Nesbitt) is left horrified when someone who he thought was his friend is revealed not to be the person they claimed to be.

In the present day, Julien (Tchéky Karyo) is on a mission to reinvestigate the links between the dead witness and Oliver's disappearance, while raking over the past starts to take its toll on Emily (O'Connor) and her relationship with Mark (Jason Flemyng).



James Nesbitt heads the cast of The Missing, Tuesday, BBC1, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY

24 Hours in Police Custody

Channel 4, 9pm

It's debatable whether this eye-opening series will have inspired many people to sign up to be a police officer, but it has shown the job is rarely dull – acting sergeant Wil Taylor describes his own typical shifts as 'unrelenting carnage'. It's easy to see why as in the last in the current series, he has to deal with crimes ranging from the theft of 98g's worth of a diet soft drink to joyriding in a 45-seater bus. But the most complicated case involves three sex workers who were arrested during a raid on a brothel. The cops have to establish whether the women are victims of trafficking, or if they are the ones guilty of exploitation. Meanwhile, we also get an insight into Wil's own remarkable story, revealing that although he's gone from being a sports-mad law student to a double amputee police officer, he's always been driven by a need to see justice done.

Intruders

BBC2, 9pm

When the first episode of this supernatural thriller aired a few weeks ago, many viewers were unsure what was most unsettling – the general air of doom, the challenge of working out what exactly was going on, or John Simm's American accent. But now we've had a chance to adjust, we're

starting to be gripped by this tale of former LA cop Jack Whelan (Simm) and his quest to find out what really happened to his wife Amy (Mira Sorvino). This week, it looks like the detective (and the audience) may start to get some answers as Gary confesses he's a lot more clued up on Bill Anderson's murder and research than he previously admitted – and then reveals a startling connection between Amy and Rose. Meanwhile, Madison begins making sense of Marcus's memories, and Frank grows more concerned over Richard, but could soon have some even bigger worries.

TUESDAY

Madeleine McCann: A Global Obsession

Channel 5, 7pm

In May 2007, three-year-old Madeleine McCann went missing in the Portuguese resort of Praia da Luz. In this documentary, journalist Martin Frizell – who broke the story in the UK on GMTV – analyses the unprecedented campaign run by Kate and Gerry McCann to keep their daughter in the public eye. He traces both the positive and negative reactions that this crusade evoked and hears from the father of a seven-year-old

boy who went missing in 2003, but quickly disappeared from the national news.

WEDNESDAY

The Apprentice

BBC1, 9pm

After a decade on the box, there was always a danger of this glorified job interview turning into a parody of itself. And that happened in no time, with comedians jumping at the chance of lampooning Alan Sugar and the endless supply of besuited, power-dressing wannabe apprentices. Little wonder the show runners

wanted to shake things up a little this time, so the other week when Lord Sugar fired not one but three contestants, Apprentice addicts were rocked to their core. So far in series 10, we've said goodbye to Chiles, Robert, Scott, Lindsay, Nurun, Steven, Sarah, Ella Jade and Jemma among others, so who knows how many will be kicked out in the latest edition?

THURSDAY

The Fall

BBC2, 9pm

Jamie Dornan is a busy chap at the moment. As women around the world hold out for his much-anticipated performance as businessman Christian in Fifty Shades of Grey, we're lucky enough to be treated to his eerie portrayal of a serial killer in this Belfast-set Beeb drama in which he stars alongside Gillian Anderson. In tonight's instalment, his character Spector drives Rose Stagg away from her home in the middle of the night and warns her that he knows she went to the police. Rose going missing only serves to step up Gibson's headache a notch – she knows the pressure is now on her, as she is forced to face facts that it was her words that tipped Spector off about Rose.

FRIDAY

Ben Fogle: New Lives in the Wild

Channel 5, 9pm

New series. The return of the programme in which Ben Fogle meets people who have moved to inhospitable parts of the world after leaving the rat race behind. He begins by travelling to the Namibian desert to spend time with 50-year-old Gideon David, who quit his career in life insurance to live in the largest conservation area in Africa.

CHRONICLE

Christmas Card Challenge

The Advertising Department set school kids from Thorns Primary School the Christmas Card Challenge and on pages 18 and 19 we have printed their superb designs. Now all we want you to do, is choose your favourite and send your nomination to us. The designer with the most votes will be presented with their Christmas Card, framed and will receive a set of cards to send out to their family and friends.

As part of the prize, we will donate £50 towards the School Funds

Please send your completed nomination form to: Stourbridge Chronicle, Christmas Card Challenge Stourbridge Advertising Department 3, Market Street, Stourbridge DY8 1AB

Thank you for voting!

Closing date for nominations is Friday 21st November. Nominations from under 16s will require a parents'/guardians' signature. Photocopies of this nomination form will not be accepted. Only one nomination per household. Competition entrants may not vote for their own entry. The winner will be the child with the most entries. In the event of a tie an independent representative will decide.

Christmas Card Challenge Nomination Form

Winning entry (card number) _____

Sponsored by _____

Your name _____

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Signature _____ Parent/guardian if applicable

Postcode _____

Turn to pages 18 and 19 to view entries

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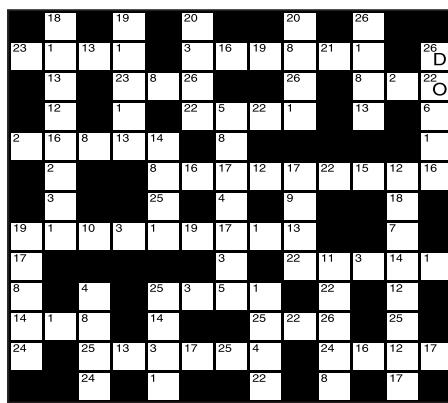


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Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	A	K	C	I	G	J	D	T	U	Z	S	X	V
14	N	W	H	Y	O	R	L	M	P	Q	E	F	B

1	14
2	15
3	16
4	17
5	18
6	19
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12	25
13	26
14	D

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

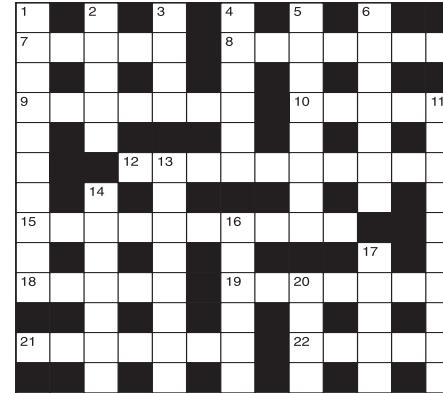
Cryptic Clues:

Across

- It's a chore producing pigment (5)
- Put clothes on again to put matters right (7)
- Arrived with many at King Arthur's seat (7)
- Groan about the gas (5)
- Sit to become a professor? (4,1,5)
- Is she unspeakably fair? (6,4)
- Towel thrown out for young bird (5)
- Suitor gets middle-headed about organised travel (7)
- Comply with 100 performing well (7)
- Explanation of superficial shine (5)

Down

- Make contact, then leave: it's critical (5-3-2)
- Morify by writing bogus letter (5)
- Transaction in wood (4)
- Squirm at court order he produced (6)
- Made a loan at a higher level (8)
- He could turn out to be a genial big-head (7)
- A close shave for the illiberal spinner? (6,4)
- No one returns to the precincts to realise aspiration (8)
- A doctor catches fish at an easy pace (7)
- Note I'm being punctual (2,4)
- Turn four in the cooking vessel (5)
- Push into favour generally (4)



Quick Clues:

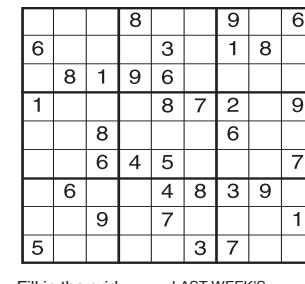
Across

- Perhaps (5)
- Faultless (7)
- Apart (7)
- Prelude (5)
- Intentional (10)
- Send (5)
- Refined (7)
- Work (7)
- Deserve (5)
- Wrong (5)

Down

- Envoy (10)
- Treacle (5)
- Repair (4)
- Thin (6)
- Erupt (5,3)
- Under (7)
- Wasteful (10)
- Refutation (8)
- Sleep (7)
- Rue (6)
- Deserve (5)
- Close (4)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

7	2	4	1	9	5	8	6	3
5	6	1	2	8	3	4	9	7
9	3	8	6	4	7	2	5	1
1	8	9	7	5	6	3	2	4
2	5	6	3	1	4	7	8	9
4	7	3	9	2	8	6	1	5
6	4	5	8	3	9	1	7	2
8	9	2	4	7	1	5	3	6
3	1	7	5	6	2	9	4	8

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Safety-net; 8 One; 9 Play the host; 11 Balance; 12 Avail; 13 Inured; 15 Asides; 17 Error; 18 Pontoon; 20 Annihilated; 21 Bas; 23 These days. Down: 2 All; 3 Titan; 4 Nieces; 5 Trojans; 6 Quits and lots; 7 Deadly sin; 10 quarters; 11 Bride-to-be; 14 Earnest; 16 Optate; 19 Nudge; 21 Lure.
QUICK - Across: 1 Boomerang; 8 Ewe; 9 Observation; 11 Extreme; 12 Poser; 13 Feild; 15 Keep on; 17 Caper; 18 Explore; 20 Annihilated; 22 Arc; 23 Stratagem. Down: 2 Orb; 3 Eerie; 4 Awaken; 5 Glimpse; 6 Lend support; 7 Deference; 10 Sets in place; 11 Effectual; 14 Errands; 16 Tether; 19 Pilot; 21 Eye.

Quiz

- To which family of birds does the bittern belong?
- In which religion is Brahma the creator god?
- Which architect laid out Covent Garden?
- What was the first major sound film?
- What do Americans call eggplant?
- Who played the sleuthing wife in the Thin Man films?
- Which ideal state is named from the Greek for 'no place'?
- Which river has Lake Tana as its source?
- Which French king was married to Marie Antoinette?
- Which organ is stimulated by the drug digitalis?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 1776; 2 Danny Blanchflower; 3

Pacific; 4 Roman Abramovich; 5 George V;

6 15; 7 Robin; 8 Holland; 9 Isle of Wight; 10

Fugue.

Niner: COALMINER

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

9853 gives a bird,
4266 gives another bird,
151773 gives a monkey.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

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THIS first floor one-bedrooomed apartment in Austcliffe Lane, Cookley, near Kidderminster, is set in delightful landscaped grounds. It is for sale through Andrew Grant at £64,950 with no chain.

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For further information contact Andrew Grant on (01384) 370232 or visit the website at www.andrew-grant.co.uk



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£250,000 - £350,000

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A substantial detached house in grounds of OVER HALF AN ACRE with accommodation over three floors. Requiring a degree of refitting and refurbishment. Rural location. In and out driveway. Detached two car Garage. Porch. Hall. Cloakroom/w.c. Dining Room. Kitchen. Living Room with adjacent glazed Verandah and Balcony. Study. Three Bedrooms. En-suite Bathroom. House Bathroom. Lower Ground Floor - Garden Room/Day Room. Utility/ Laundry. Guest Bedroom with adjacent Cloakroom/w.c. Energy Rating F



AUCTION GUIDE PRICE
£245,000 - £285,000

Imperial Avenue K'minster DY10 2RA

A spacious detached bungalow with lower ground floor, requiring refitting and refurbishment, on large plot. Porch. Hall. Three Bedrooms. Living Room. Dining Room. Kitchen. Rear Porch. Verandah. Lower ground floor level - storage rooms. Garage and driveway. Energy Rating C



AUCTION GUIDE PRICE
£130,000 - £145,000

St Cecilia Close K'minster DY10 1LW

A one bedroom apartment located on the seventh floor of this purpose built block offering spacious accommodation. Suiting owner/occupation or possible investment property. Hall. Bathroom. Double Bedroom. Living Room. Kitchen. Energy Rating C



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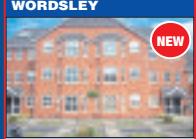
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PROPERTY

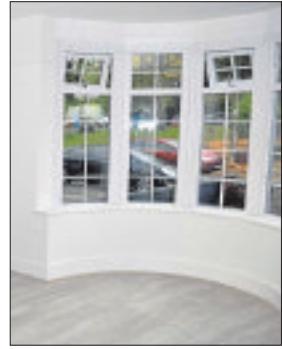
Traditional semi that is close to Warley Woods



THIS well presented traditional three-bedroomed semi-detached home with double bay windows in Grafton Road, Oldbury is close to Barnford Hill Park and Brandhall golf course and Warley Woods.

It is for sale through Derek Spires at £149,950. With gas central heating and double glazing it has a porch, entrance hall, a lounge with laminate flooring, dining room, kitchen with a gas hob with extractor hood and oven and ceramic floor tiling, three bedrooms, fully tiled bathroom and a rear garden.

For further information contact Derek Spires & Co on 0121 4204646 or visit www.derekspiresandco.com



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Rapide a dream machine

By Matt Joy

You don't have to be selfish to drive an Aston Martin; the beautiful Rapide S allows you to take three friends with you in four-door coupe style. For 2014 Aston has tweaked the looks and the mechanics to make this a 200mph dream machine.

As with most Aston Martins, there is much about the Rapide S that is reassuringly familiar. The DB9-based exterior is as beautiful as ever, but is distinct from that car on account of the bullish nose as well as the extra pair of doors.

Of greater significance is the adoption

of a new eight-speed automatic transmission which not only promises smoother shifts and the extra ratios but also a higher top speed; the Rapide S can now bust the 200mph barrier for the first time. The suspension has also been tweaked to improve the ride and handling and there are some new trim options too.

The Rapide S has the kind of looks to grab your attention whether you want it or not; it has curves, grace and a swagger that is hard not to love, even if you're not the fortunate person behind the wheel. The changes to the 2014 version only go as far as some new colour options—nearly Dia-Valo Red which was previously only available on the limited edition Zagato—and new ten-spoke alloy wheels.

It might seem incongruous to think of an Aston Martin as being practical, but the Rapide S is designed to carry four people and their luggage. If you're sitting in the front then getting comfortable is a cinch, with plenty of adjustment in the seats and good space.

In the rear space it is a little tighter, but unless you scale over 6ft tall the rear seats are cosy and cocooning. The boot space is useful too, with the ability to fold the rear seats and increase the space.

The things that haven't changed about the Rapide S are still brilliant, chiefly the sensational 6.0-litre V12 engine, but the new gearbox allows you to get the best from it. In automatic mode the shifts are smoother and faster, so you can ooze around town just using the mighty torque. A firmer squeeze and the Rapide S accelerates with ease, while you can switch to manual control of the gearbox to fully exploit the huge power reserves.

The Rapide S also manages to handle



'The Rapide S has the kind of looks to grab your attention whether you want it to or not; it has curves, grace and a swagger.'

like the sports car it is based on, despite being larger and heavier than the DB9. The steering is responsive but not too sharp, the ride controlled and the handling very reassuring for a car costing close to £150,000. It's a significant improvement on what was already excellent.

It's hard to make a case for the Rapide S being good value for money with a sticker price like that, but you certainly get a lot for your cash. Those sensational looks, the magnificent engine, the cabin swathed in fine leather and a kick-ass Bang & Olufsen

audio system. You can This is a car for the wealthy, no doubt, and although the well-heeled do tend to be fussy about what they buy it's safe to say they will be impressed by the Rapide S. A couple could use it as the ultimate GT with plenty of space for long weekends, while parents could complete the school run if they want to give their kids instant playground kudos.

This car summed up in a single word: Divine.

Aston Martin Rapide S 2015MY, £147,950.



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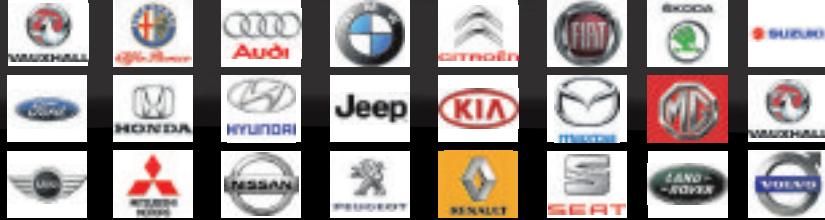
Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO₂ emissions (g/km). Vauxhall range (excl. Ampera): Urban: 12.7 (22.3) - 76.3 (3.7), Extra-urban: 23.9 (11.8) - 91.1 (3.1), Combined: 18.0 (15.7) - 85.6 (3.3). CO₂ emissions: 373 - 88g/km.*

*Available on selected models only, at participating Retailers. Conditional Sale. Finance subject to status. Terms and Conditions apply. Applicants must be 18 or over. Finance supplied by Vauxhall Finance, PO Box 6666, Cardiff, CF15 7YT. Offer will apply to private individuals. Vauxhall Partners and small businesses 1-24 (purchase only, excluding B2B supported units). All other customers are excluded. £2,000 Vauxhall Deposit Contribution on Astra Excite. We can introduce you to a limited number of finance providers, commission may be received. #First year insurance offer available on Corsa Excite only. All drivers must have held a valid full UK licence for a minimum of 1 year. All policies are underwritten by Ageas Insurance Ltd. Other insurance specific Terms and Conditions apply. The offer will cover the full premium for drivers aged between 21-75 (motor policy only). Only available through Vauxhall Insurance. Drivers aged 18-20 will make a contribution of £99 to their premium and must agree to the fitting of a telematics box to the car; every 3 months, your policy will be reviewed and if you drive well, we will return part of this to you. The policy may be cancelled for consistently poor driving. Only available through ingenie. Offers available on orders or registrations between 8 October and 15 December 2014. #Official EU-regulated test data are provided for comparison purposes and actual performance will depend on driving style, road conditions and other non-technical factors.

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Toyota powering hybrids

Hybrid cars now make up almost a quarter of Toyota's sales in the UK, the firm has announced.

Thanks to huge increases in sales figures for the British-built Auris Hybrid and good results for the new Aygo and low-CO₂ RAV4, Toyota GB is up 4.5 per cent versus last year.

In total, 22.5 per cent of those

sales were of petrol-electric hybrids.

The Auris Hybrid has sold 20.6 per cent more units than at this point in 2013, and its popularity has grown to include almost half of all Auris sales in the UK.

Meanwhile, the Aygo has made an "immediate impact" according to Toyota, selling almost 20 per cent better than the old model.

The RAV4, which in recent years has

been reduced to very small volumes in the face of stronger competition from the likes of Nissan and Volkswagen, has seen an 80 per cent boost in fleet sales thanks to a lower-CO₂ diesel option.

Hybrid power is also proving popular in the supermini Yaris. A quarter of those bought in the UK are equipped with the proven and self-recharging full hybrid system pioneered in the late 1990s by the Prius.

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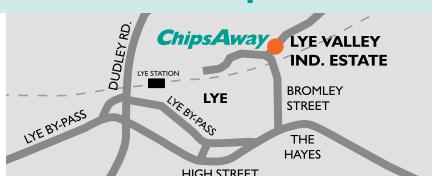


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Official Fuel Consumption Figures for the Suzuki SX4 S-Cross range mpg (litres/100km) and CO₂ emissions (g/km): Urban 39.7-55.3 (7.1-5.1), Extra Urban 55.3-76.3 (5.1-3.7), Combined 47.8-67.2 (5.9-4.2), CO₂ emissions 135-110 g/km.

The above fuel consumption figures are based on an EU test for comparative purposes only and may not reflect real driving results. *Model shown: SX4 S-Cross 1.6 DDIS S25 ALLGRIP Manual available at £23,549. The features referred to in this advertisement and all specifications and equipment may vary depending on engine, transmission and model grade. All prices and specifications correct at time of going to print. On the road price valid from 1st October 2014 to 31 December 2014. †Model shown: SX4 S-Cross 1.6 S25 Manual (metal paint available at £430). For details contact your local participating Suzuki Dealer. Subject to availability for vehicles registered between 1st October 2014 to 31 December 2014. Offer applies to new customers to Suzuki dealers only. Offer is available on extra S25 & S26 models only. **Offer applies to private customers and the first registered vehicle only. 3 routine manufacturer services covering 3 years or 37,500 miles (whichever comes sooner) by Suzuki franchised dealers or service partners only. Terms & Conditions apply, see Suzuki.co.uk/cars/freeservicing for details. Offer available on registrations of Suzuki SX4 S-Cross between 1st October 2014 and 31st December 2014, subject to availability, at Suzuki franchised dealers based in the UK, Channel Islands, Shetland and Isle of Man only. The offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer unless otherwise stated.



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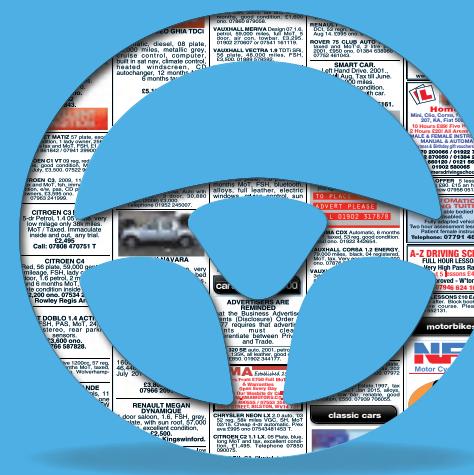


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34 Classified Ads

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A guided walk of this beautiful town will really show off its charm perfectly. Its streets are crammed with fascination and yet is so compact that the walking tour emphasises the main sites and attractions beautifully.

Climb the 366 steps of the belfry tower for breathtaking views, see the City Hall, the old Law Courts and the Basilica of the Holy Blood in which is housed some of Jesus' blood. Another must is the Notre Dame Church where Michelangelo's beautiful Madonna and Child, carved in pure white marble, is kept.

A chance to visit Ypres, centre of British activity in Belgium during the war and home to the Menin Gate, the famous memorial to the missing soldiers is offered to those that are interested. This also includes a visit to Hill 62, more commonly known as Sanctuary Wood, to see some preserved trenches.

And of course, Bruges's chocolates are known throughout the world and a visit to an establishment which still makes them by traditional methods is included to demonstrate this delicious craft.

PRICE INCLUDES

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PRICE FROM £129

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Six days various departures dates 2015

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PRICE FROM £179

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- Visits to Liverpool and Chester
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New Year London Theatre

Three days departing December 30

PRICE FROM £249.95

- Return coach travel
- Two nights bed and breakfast accommodation at an outer London hotel
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Two days departing December 20

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Organised by Newmarket Promotions (ABTA V787X)

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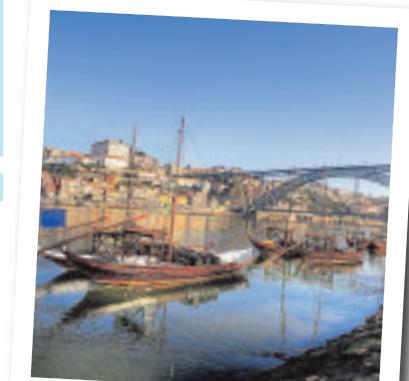
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Runners in first fixture of season

ATHLETES from Dudley Kingswinford Running Club took on the first cross country league fixture of the season at Leamington Spa.

With both men and women competing at the same venue the blue hoops took a coachload of 30 runners.

The women's race was won by Birmingham University from Loughborough and Birchfield but the ladies of DK held their own finishing 31st of 40 teams.

Helen Tromans was first home for the club in 140th with Carol Fisher in 220th, Lynn Sprague 228th, Marie Latrecque 263rd, Karen Doy in 271st, Alison Whitehouse in 295th, Lisa Newell in 301st, Sue Payton in 311th, Meg Dowen in 316th, Jane Campbell in 321st, Charlotte Tonks in 337th and Sally McConville in 348th.

In the men's race DK faced tough opposition back in Division 2 of the Birmingham League after achieving promotion last season.

With the level of competition being much more fierce it was a pleasing result to finish just below halfway in 12th of 18 teams, some distance from the bottom three relegation places.

Jackett is looking for a Plan B

KENNY JACKETT admits Wolves must come up with a Plan B after being 'found out' by the Championship big guns.

In Saturday's 5-0 demolition at Derby, the 2-1 defeat at Ipswich last Tuesday and the 0-0 draw against Birmingham, the opposition have pressed Wolves really high up the pitch and targeted double player of the year Kevin McDonald.

And head coach Jackett believes teams have started to work his side out in recent games.

"I think that's definitely happened to us tactically, and we haven't exploited the spaces in behind anywhere near enough," said Jackett. "Sides have got on top of us high up the pitch."

Grandmaster Arkall shares top spot

Chess

THIS week saw Stourbridge's star player grandmaster Keith Arkell come equal first in the 24th world senior championships 50+ category.

He scored 8.5 out of 11 and was awarded the silver medal based on count-back. This was a tremendous performance which also saw Keith gain 23 FIDE rating points.

Stourbridge struggled to juggle and assemble four teams this week.

Stafford arrived with only four players. This meant young Dan Arkell had no opponent and a wasted journey.

Tony Shaw won on board one with draws

for Sam Bradley, Colin Woodall and Steve Alcock to give us the match 3.5 - 1.5.

Our second team were very nearly at full strength for the Wolverhampton Division 2 visit to Halesowen A. Stourbridge got off to a good start when Halesowen's board six Jon Ashby had somehow managed to self-trap his own queen. Tony Shaw had an early night. That was two wins in two nights for Tony, both with black.

Next to finish was board one Steve Jukes

who lost. This was followed by an excellent draw for John Foxall and losses for Julie Wilson and Eric Horwill so the match was gone. Dave Scriven's opponent finally accepted he wasn't going to win and agreed a draw. 4-2 Halesowen.

The club's Wolverhampton Division 2 team have now played half their matches and have a 50 per cent record with two wins, two losses and one draw. On Wednesday both the Birmingham division 1 team and the Worcester team were ready and waiting to host Lichfield and Kidderminster respectively.

Stourbridge expected 10 opponents. Only three turned up. The Birmingham Division 1 clocks were started. Then another Lichfield player did arrive who was not on the team card. The Stourbridge board five gave him a game but it did not count as part of the match. The Lichfield board one also turned up. But Kidderminster was a no show so Stourbridge won by default.

Eric Horwill lost quickly and Jeremy Humphreys won by default, so 1-1. Ron Evans on board five then drew. Jeremy Fallinlow and Greg Dyett got draws, but Nick Arkell lost.

Anichebe calls for Baggies to fight back

STRIKER Victor Anichebe has challenged Albion to "come back fighting" against table-topping Chelsea, after Sunday's dire defeat to Newcastle.

The Baggies were beaten 2-0 and now face a two-week break before returning to action at Stamford Bridge.

And Anichebe, who was recalled to the starting line-up, has urged fans and players to keep the loss in perspective.

"Everyone is really down," said. "We've been on such a high recently and even in this game, I thought, for large parts we were really good."

"Hopefully after the international break we can come back fighting and get back to where we should be."

"We want to come back and show what we can do but during the international break we can go away and refresh and then come back fighting."

"You can't deny we have been on a good run lately so we can't really be too down. We just have to carry on fighting. We have to let this game go and have a good break and get some good training in. When we get closer to the Chelsea game we will look at it but for now we should just appreciate the good run we've had."

Glassboys now have clearer view of trophy

Stourbridge 4 Carlton 2

STOURBRIDGE booked their place in the next round of the FA Trophy with a comfortable 4-2 first qualifying round replay win over Carlton.

The Nottingham-based side gave the Glassboys a few scares but it was ultimately a comfortable victory which will see the Black Country side progress.

The match was delayed for 20 minutes as the Carlton players battle through traffic to reach the Black Country.

But when the action did finally get under way it was Gary Hackett's men who dominated most of the possession throughout the match.

The hosts were the ones who created more chances in the first half and duly went in 2-1 ahead through goals which came from Brian Smikle and George Bowerman.

Smikle had an easy task to turn the ball in on 18 minutes from Will Richard's cross after a neat passing move which gave his team mate a clear shot on goal, an opportunity he wasn't going to miss.

Peter Till then produced a lovely jinking run for the Glassboys that saw him go into the box but he put his shot wide so the score remained the same for now.

Bowerman scored a lovely goal on 25 minutes when he picked up a cross field ball which had been sent over by Drew Canavan and Bowerman expertly lobbed it home for his second strike in three games since joining the Glassboys.

But Carlton weren't lying

down just yet and surprised the home team two minutes later when a cross saw Josh Rae's header saved but Alex Troke followed up to score.

Canavan saw a low free-kick hit the post on 35 minutes and Stourbridge continued to press after the break.

The home side went 3-1 up on 53 minutes when Bowerman's long cross found Smikle, who was left to tap in his second goal of the night.

Canavan got the goal he deserved on 82 minutes with a low shot into the corner of the net.

Carlton battled on gamely, however, and Aaron Hooton got what proved a consolation with just three minutes of the match remaining but it proved to be too little too late as the Glassboys came away with a comfortable victory.

Stourbridge: Coleman, Richards, Ramsey Dickson, McCone(c), Smikle, Knight, Haynes, Geohagan, Bowerman, Canavan, Till, Subs: Brown (for McCone 75), Morgan Parker, Kalenda, Tye (for Bowerman 83), Hill (gk).



George Bowerman celebrates the second Stourbridge goal as the Glassboys went on to take a comfortable vic-

Slater is in a dash for Dash

DUDLEY and Stourbridge Harriers athlete Lee Slater had a fantastic run in the first Birmingham League cross country race this weekend at Leamington.

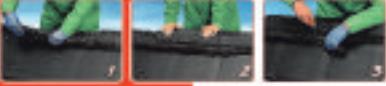
Lee finished ninth overall in 34m15s.

With all three divisions combined in the first race the field was more than 735. This meant that Lee won the Division 2 race by a clear margin. Dave Nation also had a good run for 121st overall and 28th in Div 2 with a time of 38m 29s, as Dave Ratcliffe took 40th place in 39m13s. Rob Meredith followed up his second place in the Droitwich half with 53rd in 39m 31s. Dash team finished ninth with 341 points and look to push further up the table.

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Remembrance service
at Stourbridge Crematorium
Sunday 7 December 2014, 11am

This service is particularly appropriate where the funeral of a relative or friend has taken place at the crematorium, however, everyone is welcome.

Due to high demand, admission is by ticket only. Tickets are available by calling 01384 813985 or visiting the crematorium office from Tuesday 19 November after 10.30am.

At the end of each service staff will be available to show visitors around and answer any questions about the crematorium.

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Metropolitan Borough Council



SPORT

Sports Desk 01902 319531

Anichebe's call

Baggies' striker wants a fight back

Page 39

Trophy time

Glassboys march on in competition

Page 39



email: Chronsport@expressandstar.co.uk

Spoils shared by Stour players

Marine 1 Stourbridge 1

STOURBRIDGE came from behind to clinch an Evo-Stik Premier point at struggling Marine.

Despite the Glassboys being favourites on the back of three league wins, it was the hosts who took the lead on 24 minutes when Christian Langos squared for Andy Fowler to fire home. However, their advantage lasted just four minutes when a Drew Canavan corner was deflected off Karl Clair into the net.

Stourbridge felt they should have been ahead before the break when Exodus Geohaghon fired through a crowded box only to see his effort saved by Matthew Cooper, who was judged to have not been over the goal line.

A change was forced on the Glassboys at the interval with George Bowerman replaced by Josh Morgan-Parker.

Stourbridge thought they had the lead on 69 minutes when Cooper, under a challenge from Brown, failed to take a cross from Peter Till, and Brown prodded the loose ball over the line only to find he had been penalised.

Stourbridge: Coleman, Richards, Francis, McCone, Smikle, Brown, Haynes, Geohaghon, Bowerman, Canavan, Till.

Tivs hunting for strikers

TIVIDALE have targeted a twin striker boost to replace their departed forwards.

Boss Ian Long has served seven-day approaches for Gornal Athletic's Ryan Francis and Roland Agbor of Boldmere St Michaels after Jazz Luckie joined Stafford Rangers and Lewis Taylor-Boyce returned to Walsall Wood.

"I've been trying to get a couple of strikers in because that's where we're struggling," said Long.

"The approaches expire on Thursday and we're looking to bring in two attacking players because we've lost a bit of pace with those two going."

"We've been decent in the last few games and we want to get some more foot-ball under our belts."

Long wants a cup run, adding: "We've got a decent-sized squad so we want to stay in the cups."

DK squad are shut down and shut out

Newport 67 DK 0

WITH missing players given time to recover from injuries, DK travelled to Newport.

For this North Mids Cup they were showing seven changes from the side that narrowly lost to Lichfield last Saturday.

In complete contrast to the previous week's performance, the DK pack were completely outplayed with the home team dominating in both the scrums and line-outs.

Newport kicked off with a strong wind at their backs and it took only five minutes for them to start the score board moving.

Rugby

DK were penalised in the forwards following early pressure from the home side and Liam Holder was successful with the resulting kick.

This early pressure continued and in the tenth minute Newport shunned a relatively easy kick at goal opting instead to kick for position.

From the resulting lineout, they won possession and formed a rolling maul which led to flanker Luke Kendall touching down for

the opening try. Liam Holder was successful with the conversion.

There then followed 25 minutes of play predominately between the two 22 metre lines.

The deadlock was broken in the 35th minute when DK's former centre, Chris Perry, crossed for Newport's second try which was converted by Liam Holder.

It only took a further three minutes for the home side to extend their lead when Liam Holder landed his second penalty.

The first half was bright to an end in the eighth minute of injury time with New-

port's Dave Riley crossing for a try which Liam Holder duly converted.

It was hoped that with the wind at their backs in the second half, DK's fortunes would improve. However, the complete opposite was to happen.

In contrast, DK's discipline completely deserted them. This ill-discipline, coupled with poor tackling led to the home side running in a further six tries – one each for Liam Holder, Richard Biggin, and Robert Keith. Fijian centre Henry Vaka bagged a brace and Chris Perry added a second to his total. Liam holder converted five.

Late goal knocks Tipton

Brocton 2 Tipton 1

A last-gasp Calum Rudd goal saw Brocton edge an entertaining Midland Premier clash.

It all began disastrously for the visitors with Shaun Griffiths's landing a seventh-minute booking right on the edge of the penalty area.

With unerring accuracy, David Berks lashed home the fiercest of free-kicks.

As the half wore on Tipton came more into the picture. After sterling work by Sean Pugh near the corner flag, the ball was despatched to young Mark Garderton in the 23rd minute who crossed for Dave Bate to tie up the score.

In the 41st minute, Kalum Evitts, crossed invitingly for Pugh to power a tremendous header barely off-target.

Brocton began the second half well before Tipton showed they were far from finished, Evitts setting up Steve Weaver, whose fine header shaved the top of the crossbar.

Tipton's hopes of rising a much-needed point were dashed well into added-on time when home substitute Rudd forced the ball home.

Wembley pitch won't be perfect

WEMBLEY managing director Roger Maslin says the national stadium's pitch will "not be of the very highest standard" when England host Slovenia on Saturday.

Maslin said: "While the pitch will not be of the very highest standard we want, it will still be a good playing surface."

The Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Ketley, Telford. Thursday, November 13

AMPTHILL MOB STOUR FOR WIN

Amphill & District 44 Stourbridge 7

STOURBRIDGE took the game to the league leaders and established a 12-7 half time lead.

It never looked likely to be sufficient though, and so it proved as Amphyll demonstrated why they top the league, starving the visitors of possession for long periods of the game and powering their way to a bonus point victory.

Stour can take consolation from the fact they were competitive for long stretches of this game, came through it relatively free of further injuries and were able to stretch the hosts early on when conditions favoured their high-tempo handling game.

With the sky darkening by the minute Amphyll received the kick off and were first into attack.

Barge

A penalty award was kicked to the corner and after pulling in the short side defenders in scrum half Kevin Barratt was able to barge his way for an early try.

A lineout offence gifted possession to Stour though, Drew Harper taking a quick tap looking to keep the tempo up.

With scrum half Jacob Nash marshalling his forwards effectively the attack reached the hosts 22 before a penalty was conceded by the defenders.

Stour kicked to the corner and after the cover had been pulled in by a Ben Barkey run Nash dummed the fringe defence and ghosted

by Tim Nash

though a gap to score. The rain started to lash down but Stour managed to wheel an Amphyll scrum to secure the feed near the hosts' 10 metre line.

Drew Harper picked and drove from the base, shrugged off some ineffective tackling and offloaded neatly to winger Nathan Geekie clear in support of his right. He scored out wide for Gary Dipple to convert.

Stour continued to throw the ball about despite the conditions, Steff Shillingford being hauled down just short of the line but a shade unlucky to be penalised for not releasing in the tackle.

The second half turned out to be one-way traffic, Amphyll retaining the ball well and delivering a much more effective kick-chase game than the visitors had managed.

A Ciaran Moore break looked to have set up a promising attack at one stage but a wayward pass was intercepted and the well-drilled hosts never looked back, running in six unanswered tries. This Saturday Stour take on Sedgley Park at home, kick-off 3pm



No.8 Drew Harper on the attack for Stourbridge with scrum half Jacob Nash in support

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